Daily Report

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Azerbaijan Refuses To Sign Accord on Nagorno-Karabakh

LD0505154994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek May 5 TASS—Negotiations between lawmakers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh have gave no result, because the Azerbaijani party refused to sign the final protocol on Thursday. [sentence as received]

"We worked day and night to put together the two-page document, but failed to reach an agreement," Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council (Russian parliament's upper house), who led the Russian delegation at the talks, told ITAR-TASS despondingly as he walked out into a corridor inside the Bishkek governmental palace, where the talks were held.

The participants in the talks refused to talk with the journalists.

Next time, they will tackle the Nagorno-Karabakh issues in the St. Petersburg-based headquarters of the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly.

They are to leave Bishkek for their home countries on Thursday.

Refusal To Sign Cease-Fire Viewed

LD0505145994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The chief Azerbaijani negotiator on Thursday refused to sign in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, a protocol appealing to the parties in the conflict over Azerbaijan's disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh to stop fire.

The protocol, based on an accord signed by the Armenian, Azerbaijani and Russian defense ministers in Moscow on March 18, has been discussed by parliamentary representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh at a two-day meeting in Bishkek mediated by a mission of the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The document, calling for ceasefire as of midnight on May 8, has been signed by all other negotiators, Armenian Parliamentary Chairman Babken Ararktsian, Nagorno-Karabakh Parliamentary Chairman Karen Baburian, and the mediators, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Interparliamentary Assembly and head of the upper house of the Russian parliament, Medetkan Medetkulov, head of Kyrgyzstan's parliament and leader of the Interparliamentary Assembly peace group for Nagorno-Karabakh, and Vladimir Kazimirov, special envoy of the Russian president.

The protocol also urged the warring sides to sign as early as possible an agreement to rule out any more hostilities and provide a mechanism to withdraw troops from occupied territories, restore communications, enable refugees to return home and provide a basis for further talks.

Azerbaijan's head negotiator, Deputy Parliamentary Chairman Afiyaddin Dzhalilov, told a news briefing following the talks that his country disagreed with some points in the protocol, namely the fact that it does not mention Armenia's occupation of Azerbaijani lands and the proposal to deploy a CIS peacekeeping force in the conflict zone. He also said Azerbaijan's proposal that a representative of Nagorno-Karabakh's Azeri community be added to the signatories had been rejected. "The Azerbaijani side is not pursuing any political ambitions but is trying to make proposals reflecting the real situation in the conflict zone," he said.

Shumeyko said at the briefing that it would be impossible to settle the conflict without recognizing Nagorno-Karabakh as a party to it. Azerbaijan's refusal to do so is "the main stumbling block," he said. No ceasefire agreement reached without Nagorno-Karabakh's participation would provide any guarantees, he said.

Shumeyko expressed support for the proposal to send a CIS peacekeeping force to the conflict zone, the embattled enclave being part of the Commonwealth, but said he could see no logic behind the idea of involving international forces in CIS to conflicts.

Armenian negotiator Ararktsian said it was "difficult to imagine" that the problem could be solved without the use of peacekeepers.

Nonrecognition of Karabakh Side at Talks Viewed

NC0505195694 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Commentary by Qullu Muherremov]

[Text] Despite the conflicting media reports from Bishkek, it is clear that the CIS interparliamentary assembly insists at all costs on the recognition of Daghlyk-Karabakh [Nagorno-Karabakh] as one of the independent sides in this conflict. The elevation of the Karabakh Armenians, who at present have no status at all, to prominence at the Bishkek meeting shows that the talks are being basically conducted to put pressure on Azerbaijan. The course of the developments also shows that Armenia, which avoids heeding the CSCE mission, is trying to solve the problem speedily and within the CIS framework at every opportunity and at all costs.

The sudden recognition of Daghlyk-Karabakh as a conflicting side by Azerbaijan might place the Republic, which has been waging a war with Armenia for years now, in an inextricable position. Such a step would not only tie Azerbaijan's hands militarily and politically, but might also impede the proper understanding of the nature of this war at the international level. This is because at the initial stages of the problem, when talks were being held to put an end to war under the CSCE mandate, Armenia and Azerbaijan took part as sides in the conflict and representatives of the Armenian and Azerbaijani communities of Daghlyk-Karabakh participated as observers.

Why can Azerbaijan not recognize Daghlyk-Karabakh as an independent side in the conflict? Because such recognition would in practice mean the recognition of the existence of the Daghlyk-Karabakh army, regardless of Karabakh's future status. This could have grave consequences in the future. Also, such recognition on the eve of the Minsk conference would mean prematurely determining various parameters for the status of Daghlyk-Karabakh. And this will eventually entail further concessions. Most important, the recognition of Daghlyk-Karabakh as an independent side in the conflict aims at providing insurance for the aggressor Armenia. Naturally, the CIS states, primarily Russia, are only trying to shield Armenia. And the Azerbaijani side's resistance to that approach at Bishkek would most likely have a bearing on the situation on the front lines in the near future. However, regardless of the fact that the aggressor is not being identified at the present time, the changing atmosphere in the world will probably not allow the aggressor to remain in the shadows indefinitely.

Russian, Kyrgyz Deputies Sign Agreement

PM0505120394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Anatoliy Shapovalov: "Broken Ties Restored"]

[Text] Bishkek—The talks between the parliamentarians of Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan] and the Russian Federation in Bishkek have been crowned with the signing of an agreement.

The document, which meets international standards, contains 11 articles. But to describe it you only have to cite one article: The parliaments will do everything to promote all forms of development of relations between the two republics. In other words the course elaborated by Askar Akayev and Boris Yeltsin has met with powerful parliamentary support.

To judge by the situation which has taken shape, this is a very noble aim. The Union has collapsed but relations between Kirghizia and Russia have remained. The euphoria born of the romance of sovereignization is abating. And with it the illusions that the world would greet us with open arms. In both Bishkek and Moscow there is a growing understanding of the fact that no one will be able to replace long-standing partners, Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Russian Federation Council, stressed when the agreement was signed.

The agreement lays a good basis not only for restoring Kirghiz-Russian relations but also for bringing them to a qualitatively new level. Kirghizia now, and this is no longer a secret, is renowned for its unique high-tech production facilities, for instance for the artificial growing of crystals. But the almost completed complexes are standing idle. To resolve the problem what is needed above all is capital. The parliamentarians suggest a way out: organizing in the first half of June a meeting near Moscow between Kirghiz and Russian entrepreneurs and bankers. Let them investigate the existing situation, consider the matter together, and be convinced of how advantageous it is to invest capital in a most unique production facility. Who knows, perhaps the industrialists, bankers, and financiers will decide to create a multinational company.

All these questions were the focus of attention of V. Shumeyko's meetings with Kirghiz President A. Akayev and Prime Minister A. Dzhumagulov.

In the opinion of M. Sherimkulov, chairman of the republic's Supreme Council, Kirghizia and Russia have similar political and economic systems. Relations built on a basis of parity are the model. The main thing now is to ensure that the restored contacts become strong.

The interparliamentary agreement is geared to a two-year period. If when this period comes to an end there has been no application from either side it will automatically be extended through the year 2000.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 6 May

LD0605050594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0432 GMT 6 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 6 ITAR-TASS—The national press does not concentrate on any single subject on Friday.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI leads with a report about the signing of the treaty of civic peace and concord by a large group of representatives of the country's public organisations and business community. More than 100 public and entrepreneurial organizations and banking structures signed the treaty in St. Vladimir's Hall of the Grand Kremlin Palace on Thursday.

"The participation in the signing of representatives of the business circles signals that the nascent entrepreneurial community sees its interest in the stable development of society and is ready to shoulder its share of responsibility for stability," the newspaper writes.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA comments on Tajik Leader Emomali Rakhmonov's visit to Moscow: "There is no doubt in principle that Russia is ready to feed Tajikistan as long as it remains in the sphere of Russian influence. The time for the visit is not quite good: judging by all appearances, the opposition has finally rejected any dialogue with (Tajikistan's) government and is planning to settle the problem by military means. In this situation the powers to be in Dushanbe are forced not to discuss with Moscow economic problems but to plead for a further increase of the already sizable military assistance".

The same newspaper reports from the Crimea that "President Yuriy Meshkov (of the peninsular republic) is planning to address the newly-elected parliament with a package of five bills, which form the conceptual framework of the state and legal system of the peninsula. The bills, which Yuriy Meshkov will submit to the Crimean parliament, cover such matters as citizenship of the Crimean

republic, its relations with Russia and Ukraine and reform of its executive power so as to create "a strong presidential republic".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA carries an article by Professor Valentin Larionov, entitled "Pluses and Minuses of Partnership for Peace", which says: "It is no time to demonstrate unpredictability in foreign policy. It looks like the period of excited romantic relations between Russia and the West is coming to an end, or probably has ended already. Time is now coming for mature partnership with every subsequent step carefully weighed at home with due consideration of all pros and cons".

The newspaper TRUD publishes an interview with Austrian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Friedrich Bauer under the title "Russia Must Regain Confidence in Herself". The ambassador says: "I think Russia's revival will begin in its component parts, in the provinces, in the countryside but not in the cities and not among the intellectuals. And it will proceed on the basis of a balance of interests".

PRAVDA carried an article by academic Valentin Koptyug who says that "the insane policy of privatisation has dealt a stunning blow to the country's national economy and continues to shower such blows". Koptyug says he has only one description for the privatisation drive underway in the country—"A fantastic affair on the state level".

The same newspaper reports that "Karelia (Russia's northwestern autonomy) is looking forwards to the arrival from Boston, New York and other cities of America of several tens of high-class policemen, who, jointly with Russian militiamen, will patrol the streets, hunt criminals and investigate crimes from May 16-26. They will also teach Russians the art of using rubber sticks which they will give them as presents. The American police force that will land on Karelia will include experts in self-defence, preventing sexual abuse of minors, combatting drug-addiction and crime in schools and controlling infectious diseases.

Missiles Not To Be Targeted at U.S., Britain

LD0505185694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] After May 30 Russian strategic nuclear-armed missiles will not be targeted against sites situated on the territory of the United States and Great Britain, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Strategic Rocket Forces Colonel General Igor Sergeyev reported to Interfax on Thursday.

In his words, the missiles which were earlier targeted against the United States and Great Britain, will not be targeted against any site in the world. Sergeyev reported that earlier the command considered the possibility of re-targeting strategic missiles at points in the open sea. "However, we have chosen not to target them at any point," he said.

Sergeyev pointed out that non-targeting of Russian missiles is being implemented in accordance with the Declaration on Organization of Daily Activity of Strategic Nuclear Forces with Non-Targeted Missiles signed by Russian and American Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton on January 14, 1994 in Moscow. On February 14 Boris Yeltsin and British Prime Minister John Major signed a joined statement on joining this Declaration.

Sergeyev expressed conviction that by May 30 American and British strategic missiles would "not be targeted against Russian sites either."

"This will raise the threshold of nuclear security in the world," Sergeyev asserts.

Security Council Official on Borders, NATO Partnership

LD0505195194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Deputy Secretary of the Russian Security Council, Valeriy Manilov, suggested that the next meeting of the Security Council planned for May was likely to focus on issues concerning the Russian borders.

He said at a press conference today that this was one of the priorities when ensuring Russia's security.

The second important problem was the Russian brain drain, he emphasized. Manilov stressed that the Security Council was trying to solve the problem by non-standard ways with the participation of all interested organizations.

Manilov suggested that threats to Russia could stem from the economic problems, inter-ethnic relations within the Russian Federation and possible social-economic collisions due to the growing unemployment.

Manilov announced that the Russian Security Council had recommended that all the interested departments work on problems concerning Russia joining the NATO Partnership for Peace program. This analysis and specific proposals on the issue are expected to be submitted to the Security Council in June.

The issue on the joint U.S.-Russian military exercise in the Southern Urals (the Totsk training ground) was also carefully worked on. Manilov said when discussing this both moral and economic factors must be taken into consideration.

Manilov said the Security Council was preparing radical proposals on the Black Sea Fleet issue to prevent it becoming a real danger. "I think the Russian and Ukrainian presidents will adopt mechanisms for making the final decision on this issue in the interests of the two countries and their peoples," Manilov emphasized.

Grachev To Outline Partnership Proposals in Brussels

LD0605130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1124 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev plans to outline Russia's new approaches to the "Partnership for Peace" program in Brussels on 24 May. He stated this at a news conference at the Russian Defense Ministry today.

In his words, Russia should put out its own idea of partnership. Before 15 May a group of Russian scientists should draw up proposals on this issue, they will be then examined at a meeting of the Security Council. If they are approved, the Russian proposals will be announced to NATO defense ministers by Pavel Grachev at the NATO headquarters.

The minister said that what is proposed in the "Partnership for Peace" program does not entirely suit Russia. "The role of NATO and the West European Union is increasing, but they do not have the right to substitute the peacekeeping functions of the CSCE and ignore Russia's interests," Pavel Grachev believes.

Pavel Grachev also said that he discussed issues relating to Russia's new proposals to the "Partnership for Peace" program with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Kolesnikov on Amur Space Launch, U.S. Joint Exercises

LD0405192494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Head of the General Headquarters of the Russian Armed Forces Mikhail Kolesnikov said that Russia is ready to launch a first space ship from a base of the missile complex located in the town of Svobodny-18 (the Amur region) in 1996, and to carry out manned flights in the future. Speaking to journalists in Moscow on Wednesday he noted that extra funds would not be needed for these purposes.

Kolesnikov said that despite positive progress in talks with the Kazakh side on the use of the Baykonur cosmodrome,

a lot of problems remain unresolved. At the same time he noted that "today it is impossible to pretend that we do not need Baykonur."

Answering questions, Kolesnikov spoke in favor of holding Russian-American military exercises on the Totsk test ground of the Orenburg region this summer. He expressed regret that this issue "caused heated debate" in the State Duma. "They will be command post exercises, and not a single American tank will roll on the Totsk test ground," he said.

Kolesnikov said that by the beginning of this year the Russian Armed Forces numbered 2,300,000 military servicemen. He also said that by January 1, 1995, it is planned to reduce the armed forced down to less than 2 million. He said that currently the armed forces are recruited to 62 percent of capacity. He suggested that after the spring draft the figure will remain the same.

U.S. Maneuvers Seen as Part of Anti-Grachev Campaign

MK0505113094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 May 94 p 3

[Ilya Bulavinov report in the "Russian-U.S. Military Cooperation" column: "Pavel Grachev Finds the Exercises a Hard Test"]

[Text] The cancellation of Russian-U.S. military exercises in Orenburg Oblast can damage both Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's international prestige and his positions within Russia. Whether the exercises in Orenburg Oblast will go ahead after all may become clear at the end of consultations of Russian and U.S. military working groups which opened in Moscow yesterday.

The noise around the exercises is in fact of an exclusively political character. It is hard to believe that the tent camp which was to be made for 210 Americans on the territory of the 27th Motorized Division stationed in the area of Totsk can cause irreparable ecological damage. Likewise it is hard to see the presence of 200 men and officers from the U.S. Army as a real threat to Russia's national security.

Apparently State Duma deputies, protesting against the conduct of joint exercises, have decided to use the planned one-week presence of the U.S military on Russia's territory for far more serious purposes.

What is at issue is apparently the figure of the defense minister himself. First of all, because many deputies cannot forgive him the tanks on Krasnopresnenskaya Naberezhnaya last October. Furthermore, anyone from the presidential entourage is a "red rag" to the opposition. Especially a power minister. Pavel Grachev's political independence and influence seem no longer to suit not only the opposition but even some people in the presidential team. Even such a presidential structure as the Security Council has come out against the minister on the side of the State Duma. As KOMMERSANT-DAILY has learned, the council apparatus has prepared a memorandum for Boris Yeltsin that talks about the inexpediency of inviting the Americans to Russia.

Meanwhile, for Pavel Grachev, who likes to accentuate his successes in relations with "distant foreign lands," the first Russian-U.S. exercises on Russian soil were to mark not only a transition to a new stage of cooperation with the United States. They were to consolidate his image as a serious politician, capable of pursuing an independent line. Cancellation of the exercises can damage the minister's authority with foreign colleagues and put into question the durability of his position in the upper echelons of the Russian power structure. To be sure, this will not force the defense minister to resign. Yet it is just as obvious that the first crack in his status will appear. If Pavel Grachev fails to defend the idea of joint maneuvers, this will indicate that the general, who is part of the presidential inner circle, is not so influential and invulnerable after all, and will increase the opposition's wish to knock a strong figure from the presidential team. Therefore it can be assumed that criticism over the maneuvers will be followed by more serious attacks.

It is also noteworthy that almost at the same time an attack was launched on another power minister, also close to the president: Viktor Yerin. When discussing the assassination of Andrey Ayzderzis, deputies demanded Yerin's resignation.

Presumably, taught by bitter experience, the president's opponents are now afraid of attacking him directly. They undertake a bypassing maneuver, trying to shake Boris Yeltsin's main props. Surely, the likelihood that he will soon replace the proven power ministers is negligible. By discrediting people close to the president step by step, however, the opposition can finally compel Yeltsin to part with them. Moreover, the president's opponents do not even need to place their people in the vacant posts: After all the new figures, even if appointed by Yeltsin himself, will hardly strengthen him.

Gen. Semenov Urges Joint Exercises

MK0605095094 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 18/43, 6-12 May 94 (Signed to press 5 May) p 2

[Interview with Colonel General Vladimir Semenov by Aleksandr Sidyachko under the "Hello!" rubric: "Peacekeepers Getting Ready for Battles"]

[Text] The Russian-American peacekeeping forces exercises scheduled for July at the Totsk training ground of Orenburg Oblast are under threat of disruption. The State Duma has asked Yeltsin "to look into the question of the wisdom of the exercises," and the Foreign Ministry and the Defense Ministry has been asked to think of holding maneuvers on the territory of a NATO state. The Russian Federation president, according to his press service's report, treated with "understanding the parliamentarians' arguments" and recommended to the military to hold additional consultations with the Americans "taking account of both the postures of the Russian lawmakers and

those voiced by the public in this connection." OBSHCHAYA GAZETA correspondent Aleksandr Sidyachko called Colonel General Vladimir Semenov, commander in chief of Russia's ground forces, to ask for his comments on the situation that has taken shape around holding this operation.

[Sidyachko] Vladimir Magomedovich, the top lawmakers were especially angered at the fact that the exercises are being planned on the territory of Russia. They are inclined to interpret them as a rehearsal of America's future invasion....

[Semenov] During last spring's Vancouver meeting of the presidents of Russia and the United States, an agreement was reached on joint peacekeeping actions of the two countries. Then the Americans proposed, within the framework of military cooperation, to hold a peacekeeping exercise on their territory. But we declined. It would have taken several million dollars to move the men and equipment across the ocean. We do not have the money. As for a NATO country, we proposed this option to Germany, where the U.S. 3d Infantry Division is stationed. The Germans declined. And then we made a decision to hold the exercises on the training ground of the 27th Russian Peacekeeping Division in Totsk.

[Sidyachko] The majority of Duma men hold the opinion that America is to pay all the exercise expenses for Russia. And it's you pay your money, you takes your choice, you know....

[Semenov] This is not so. The Americans are to pay all the expenses involved in the participation in the exercises of the 3d Infantry Division, food, renting the airfield, the landing of planes with equipment included. As far as our 27th division is concerned, these maneuvers were included in the combat training plan as early as last year. Thus each pays only for himself.

[Sidyachko] Why these exercises at all?

[Semenov] I want to specially underline: they are going to be command and staff exercises. More than 250 men are to take part in them on each side. The Russian Armed Forces are to contribute the staff of the 589th Motorized Rifle Regiment of the 27th Division, the staff of the 2d Motorized Rifle Battalion and one of its companies. The U.S. Armed Forces are to contribute the staff of the 1st Brigade of the 3d Infantry Division (20 men), the staff of the 1st Battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment (20 men), and Company "C" (101 men). The equipment includes 50 wheeled vehicles and about 20 trailers. No tanks, armored vehicles, field guns, and mortars are to be used.

The objective of the exercises is to forge common approaches to the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations, to practice the mechanism of coalition peacekeeping troop control. The Americans have vast experience in holding such operations. They will demonstrate the technique of separating feuding sides, share their experience in escorting humanitarian freight, in the performing of joint duties at checkpoints, in the provision of aid to refugees. Today the world body has recognized two types of peacekeeping actions: operations in enforcing peace (for example, NATO bombing in Bosnia and Herzegovina; they, as experience shows, are not effective—A.S.) and peacekeeping operations where all violence toward the indigenous population is ruled out. Practicing the second option is indeed the objective of the upcoming exercises.

[Sidyachko] In the wake of the Duma's statement on where it stands in regard to the exercises, how could you argue for the need to hold them?

[Semenov] The United States justly believes that Russia will also in the future have its interests in many regions in the world and seek to exercise its influence on them. And here the best way out would be to look for compromise solutions rather than a standoff that will not benefit any side.

Possibility of Spy Swap With Ames Not Discussed Yet

LD0505222994 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 2155 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry has not yet had any consultations with the U.S. State Department about the possibility of swapping Aldrich Ames for one of the American spies detained in the territory of the Russian Federation. This was said today by Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Press and Information Department. According to him this issue should, first and foremost, be settled among themselves by the leaders of the two states' special services.

Zhirinovskiy Meets With Leader of U.S. Peace Group

LD0505192194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia (LDPR), Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, today met the chairman of International Swords Into Plowshares, Jeffry M. Ault.

A statement by the LDPR parliamentary faction press office described the above-mentioned organization as "widely known in the U.S.A. and having much clout." The press office also referred to Ault as saying that a number of congressmen and senators had asked him to meet Zhirinovskiy.

The statement quoted Ault as saying: "Not everyone in America believes what our newspapers write about you." In his opinion, very important events are happening in Russia and politicians of other countries have to obtain adequate information at first hand.

Zhirinovskiy said his position with respect to the U.S.A. was constantly misrepresented as open anti-Americanism. On the contrary, he supports stable and, first of all, fair relations between two great powers, according to the press office.

Ault offered Zhirinovskiy his help in establishing contacts with American politicians and businessmen.

Zhirinovskiy asked Ault to tell everyone in the U.S.A. that the LDPR had supported peace and never called for war in any region of the world, the press office said.

Grachev Denies Plan To Seize Aircraft From Crimea

LD0605125494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1150 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vladimir Gondusov and Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russia has not taken and does not intend to take any unilateral steps in transferring the Black Sea Fleet's air wing from the Crimea. "We will not engage in hooliganism, nor do we intend to capture anyone," said [Defense Minister] Pavel Grachev, replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question on a Ukrainian Defense Ministry statement about alleged Russian plans to seize 20 Tu-22 military aircraft during the forthcoming Black Sea Fleet exercises.

Regarding the state of affairs on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, the minister noted that Russian and Ukrainian groups of experts are currently at work. Their findings on this question will be examined at the second round of talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet. At the same time Grachev stated that the Russian version will scarcely differ substantially from the one it proposed at the talks in Sevastopol between the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers. "It has been endorsed by the Russian president and reflected in five previous agreements signed by the presidents of the Ukraine and Russia," Pavel Grachev said.

Fleet Backs Up Denial

LD0505141294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1358 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—"The accusations have nothing in common with reality; such actions were not planned", stated the press-centre of Russia's Black Sea Fleet on Thursday. The naval representative was reacting to a declaration issued by the Ukrainian Defence Ministry that the Russians had "plans to seize at least 20 Tu-22 military aircraft during the Black Sea Fleet's upcoming military maneuvers".

The press-centre representative told ITAR-TASS that the Ukrainian assertion that "pilots of the Black Sea Fleet based in the Crimea received orders to land the rocket-carrying aircraft at the military base of Krymsk in southern Russia" cannot stand up to criticism if only for techical reasons. All pilots, including Ukrainian ones, know that the airfield in question cannot handle such planes, the representative said.

The naval press centre is sure that, upon carefully reading through the Ukrainian Defence Ministry's statement, one can conclude that Kiev is hastily making public unchecked information to confuse the public. This, unfortunately, is not the first time such things have been done, the representative noted.

Meshkov Says Fleet Crimean-Russian Issue

LD0505142794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1400 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—It would be most logical if the resolution of the Black Sea Fleet question was transferred to the Crimea and Russia, according to Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

The stationing of the fleet and the questions connected with its supplies and social benefits for the military personnel are all problems which the Crimean Republic must solve, he announced in Moscow, where he arrived for the signing of an agreement between the Crimean and Russian Governments on trade, economic, and cultural cooperation.

Meshkov said that Ukrainian Defence Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy's refusal to allow Crimean representatives to have equal representation at the Sevastopol negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet was "inadequate".

Russia, Crimea Sign Cooperation Agreement

LD0505171594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1616 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—An agreement on trade, economic and cultural cooperation between the Moscow and Crimean governments was signed here on Thursday by Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and visiting Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov.

The agreement provides for concluding direct contracts on mutually beneficial terms, for creating joint ventures in various economic spheres to make, store and process agricultural products, for organizing recreation and medical treatment in health resorts and rest centres. The two sides plan to set up in prospect a Moscow-Crimean trade house and a foundation for revival of Crimea's economic and cultural ties. The document also envisages exchange of experience in privatization, anti-monopoly tax policy and fighting crime.

Luzhkov described the signed agreement as an action of not only economic, but also political cooperation. "Crimea has always been inseparable from Russia, it is poured generously with Russian blood. Crimea and Russia are an integral whole", the Moscow mayor said.

He expressed confidence that the agreement would enable a lot of Russians to have a good rest in Crimean resorts and rest homes, as well as replenish Moscow shops with fruit, vegetables and wine.

The Crimean president also highly assessed the accord as based on good relations between Russians and Crimeans.

According to him, the signed document "will make it possible to extend our liking and bent for each other to the economic sphere".

Meshkov promised that Moscovites wishing to spend their summer vacation on the Crimean peninsula would have a carefree rest. "Crimea is waiting for Moscovites. It is calm and warm there. The sea, sun and Massandra wine cellars are at your disposal", the Crimean president said.

Kozyrev Hopes for 13 May Geneva Meeting on Bosnia

LD0505161794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Head of the Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev expressed hope that the meeting between Foreign Ministers of Russian Federation, United States, European Union, and United Nations on settlement of the Bosnian conflict would be held on May 13 in Geneva. On Thursday day, during a short stop in Moscow on his way from Cairo to St. Petersburg he reported that two dates had been preliminary discussed by the parties. "Moscow is in favor of an earlier date (May 13) in order to prevent escalation of hostilities in Bosnia," said Kozyrev.

He underlined that achievement of an agreement on cessation of hostilities in Bosnia and deployment of UN forces between the parties involved in this conflict is the major issue of the agenda.

Speaking about the situation in the Middle East after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreements on Gaza Strip and Jericho Wednesday in Cairo, Kozyrev noted that on the one hand, Moscow intends to assist in implementation and development of these agreements, and, on the other hand, it wants to assist in establishing a Syrian-Israeli dialogue.

Meanwhile, during his conversation with our Interfax correspondent a Russian diplomat in Cairo, who preferred to stay anonymous, expressed his opinion that a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli direction can be reached by means of "a quiet diplomacy" and, probably, on a bilateral ground as it was during the dialogue between Israel and the PLO.

At the conference to be held in Geneva on May 13 the heads of Russian and American diplomacies, the European Union and the U.N. will address the warring sides in Bosnia with a joint appeal to sign an agreement to cease hostile actions and start drafting a document on a comprehensive solution to the conflict. Interfax learned this on Thursday from a senior Russian diplomat.

According to him, a contact group, which includes experts from Russia (Interfax's note: Russia is represented there by a high- ranking member of its Foreign Ministry, Aleksey Nikiforov), the USA, Britain, France, Germany, the European Union and the U.N., has been instructed to finalize a draft agreement on ceasing hostile actions. "The document has to be a compromise and take into account the wishes of both warring sides. With this aim in view the contact group is cruising between Pale and Sarajevo. On Friday it is expected to arrive in Zagreb," the diplomat said.

According to him, the contact group is facing a complicated task. "Neither the Serbs nor the Muslims in Bosnia seem to want to heed anything, but their own arguments. This does not give rise to optimism, of course," he said.

As Interfax's interviewee conceded, tensions around the Bosnian city of Brcko remain high. Nevertheless he said that the situation should not be dramatized. "A concentration of Serb and Muslim troops was noted around Brcko, but noticeable actions have been observed from neither side. Maybe the call for refraining from provocations made by the chairman of the U.N. Security Council had an effect on them. However there is another explanation for their restraint: the mountainous terrain and the abundance of rivers and rivulets rule out the possibility of large-scale military actions in the area of Brcko," he said.

The diplomat qualified the statement made in Cairo by Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, and by the U.S. secretary of State, Warren Christopher, as fundamentally important. The two men called for taking immediate steps to ease tensions and prevent offensive military actions in the area of Brcko, and for withdrawing all troops from the fixed areas around Gorazde."

Kozyrev and Christopher also called for immediately resuming talks without preliminary conditions with a view to achieving a comprehensive settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Work of Arms Control Commission in Geneva Reported

LD0605143594 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 6 May 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The joint commission on compliance and inspection is continuing its work in Geneva. This temporary body was set up to implement the treaty on reduction of strategic offensive weapons, START-1 and START-2. Representatives of five powers—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and the United States—belong to the commission. Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan are to join the treaty as non-nuclear states.

[Begin recording by Russian Representative M. Streltsov—identified by caption] We have already made a certain amount of progress. A whole series of agreements and joint statements by our commission have been signed.

These regulate issues involved in the multilateral fulfillment of the treaty. We believe that the Ukraine will accede to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty in the very near future. This will create all conditions necessary to ensure that the treaty comes into force. [end recording]

Tajikistan President Arrives, Talks With Leaders

LD0505201794 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Imamali Rahmonov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Tajikistan, has arrived in Moscow on an official visit. Issues related to the Russian-speaking population in Tajikistan and the strengthening of the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border are being discussed at a meeting with the Russian leadership. Attention is also being paid to the prospects of a dialogue between the government of Tajikistan and the opposition in the republic.

Rakhmonov Meets Kozyrev

LD0605120294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] On Friday in Moscow Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had a private meeting with the chairman of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet Emomali Rakhmonov.

A joint press conference on the results of these talks which was planned beforehand did not take place. "The question concerns not only the delicacy of the problems discussed by Rakhmonov and Kozyrev. We had no opportunity to meet with the press because we had to go to Viktor Chernomyrdin," one of the members of the Tajik delegation reported to Interfax.

Sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry reported to Interfax that Kozyrev and Rakhmonov discussed the process of the inter-Tajik dialogue, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, and the situation in Tajikistan. "We have declared once more that many problems facing Tajikistan today can be solved if the Tajik-Afghan dialogue results in a civil peace in the republic," a high ranking Russian diplomat declared in his interview with Interfax.

He reported that the parties had only indirectly touched upon the issue on Tajikistan's joining the ruble zone. "This is the subject for negotiations between the Tajik leader and the Russian Prime Minister,' he said.

According to Interfax interlocutor, Russia does not link the issue on Tajikistan's joining the ruble zone with a complete normalization of the situation in the republic. "One should be a realist—the settlement process in Tajikistan will take much time and the issue on the expansion of the ruble zone concerning Tajikistan can be solved quicker," he said.

Yeltsin Meets With Rakhmonov

LD0605115294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has met Chairman of the Tajik parliament Emomali Rakhmonov in the Kremlin. The meeting is being held behind closed doors. However, it was reported that the talks are focused on economic issues, and primarily, Tajikistan's admission into the rouble zone. Although Russian roubles are in circulation in Tajikistan, this is considered to be a temporary measure yet.

During the talks the two leaders are expected to discuss the internal political situation in Tajikistan and the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Yeltsin on Importance of Ties

LD0605133694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1223 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May—"We are undoubtedly disturbed by what is happening in the region and along its borders", stated Boris Yeltsin on the eve of his conversation with Emomali Rakhmonov, chairman of the Tajikistan supreme soviet, which is being held now in the Kremlin.

The Russian president believes that the Tajik leader's arrival in Moscow is "a good move." "We need to consult about your affairs and ours and about the problems in which we are interested," he stressed. "We cannot remain quiet when there are constant clashes on the border and our people are being killed", the president continued.

Boris Yeltsin noted that Russia is also disturbed by the political situation in Tajikistan which he described as a "friendly country." "We would like to know what sort of help you need", he added, addressing Rakhmonov.

Border Guards in Tajikistan To Resist Attacks

LD0505194794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Russian Border Defense troops command has information on preparations for wide-scale military actions by Tajik opposition militants against Russian border guards in Tajikistan. This was announced by Press Secretary of the Russian Border Defense troop command, Colonel Aleksandr Suvorov today.

He suggested that such actions would mark the beginning of the spring-summer attack planned by "the Tajik government in exile." Suvorov stressed that large formations of militants were concentrating on the Pyanj and Shuroabad areas near the border. He did not rule out that the armed opposition in Tajikistan could participate in actions against Russian border guards.

Suvorov stated that all actions against Russian border guards would fail. The command of the Russian Border Defense troops in Tajikistan is taking all necessary measures in order to resist possible attacks, Suvorov emphasized.

"All responsibility for the attempt to trigger off military actions on the border will lay on those trying to hamper the peace settlement in Tajikistan with their own lives and that of others," Suvorov said.

Talks With Kazakhstan on Baykonur To Continue

LD0605124494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Russia and Kazakhstan intend to continue consultations soon to word an inter-governmental treaty on Moscow's lease of the Baykonur space center.

A top Russian Space Agency official disclosed to INTERFAX that the agency's General Director Yuriy Koptev is to meet with Kazakhstan's Deputy Premier Galym Abilsiitov in Almaty to discuss possible solutions to the issue.

The treaty must tally with the interstate agreement "On the basic principles and terms of using the Baykonur space center," signed by the presidents Boris Yeltsin and Nursultan Nazarbayev in Moscow on March 28. The latter accord legally entitles Russia to use Baykonur and the adjacent town of Leninsk during 20 years and prolong the lease, if it wishes, for yet another 10 years. Russia's annual pay for the use of these facilities is set at 115 million dollars.

As INTERFAX has learned, pending his trip to Almaty, Koptev met on Wednesday with the Russian Aero-Space Forces' Vladimir Ivanov to coordinate a single position on the status of Russian servicemen at Baykonur. The Aero-Space Forces are responsible for launching all spacecraft and boosters from Baykonur.

Stepashin on Talks With Azerbaijan, Dagestan

LD0605101794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1531 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhi Shamov]

[Excerpts] Makhachkala, 5 May (ITAR-TASS)—A conference protocol on examining issues relating to border and customs control between Russia and Azerbaijan was signed in Makhachkala today. It recognizes the expediency of speeding up the start of talks with Azerbaijan to maintain and develop traditional ties between the residents of border areas of southern Dagestan and the north of Azerbaijan and their freedom of contact. Until agreement is reached on these matters it has been decided, in particular, to establish a border and customs regime that facilitates as far as possible contact between ethnic Dagestanis living on both sides of the Samur River.

The protocol was signed, on the Russian side, by Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service and member of the Russian Federation Security Council, and other members of an important delegation from Moscow. The delegation discussed the sociopolitical situation in Dagestan, problems on the border between Dagestan and Azerbaijan, and the crime situation in the republic. On the Dagestani side, the protocol was signed by Magomed-Ali Magomedov, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Dagestan, and Abdurazak Mirzabekov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Dagestan.

Today the Russian Federation delegation met with staff of the Federal Counterintelligence Service of Dagestan and held talks and consultations at the state nationalities committee of the Republic of Dagestan, where discussion of the problem of the Lezgin people was continued.

The visiters and hosts noted with satisfaction the fruitfulness of talks with the Azerbaijani delegation on the border yesterday, at which an initial understanding was reached on the Russian and Azerbaijani sides reaching agreement as soon as possible on the establishment of a "transparent" border for Dagestanis living in both states. [passage omitted]

Summing up the results of the stay in Dagestan by the delegation of representatives of the federal authorities in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the delegation's head, Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service said: "We fulfilled the main points of our program and have outlined specific proposals to improve the sociopolitical situation in the republic, particularly in the south. These will be taken to the president of the Russian Federation and to members of the state council [as received], and of the appropriate ministries and departments.

"During yesterday's talks with the Azerbaijani side, members of its delegation promised to take our proposals on the border to Geydar Aliyev and other state leaders. And I believe that talks with them on this matter will begin within the next month.

"As for the issues of terrorism, the rise in crime in the republic in general, and the Derbent tragedy in particular, I am sure that these problems will be solved. A special group of top professionals—investigators, lawyers, and others—will come to Dagestan from Moscow to help with this. I have already issued the relevant instructions.

"I would like to wish the Dagestani people continued patience and wisdom so as to improve the situation through joint efforts."

The delegation of representatives of federal authorities left for Kabarda-Balkaria today.

Azerbaijan Seen Spiting Moscow in Signing Partnership

MK0505140094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 May 94 p 4

[Svetlana Sukhova report: "Azerbaijan Signs NATO Program. Aliyev Has Preferred a Brussels Trip to Talks With Armenians"]

[Excerpt] A situation developing in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict clearly does not favor Baku. Yesterday, Armenian troop units continued their advance along the northern (Geranboy), northeastern (Ter-Ter), and eastern (Agdam-Agdzhabedi) axes. Owing to the aggravation of tensions Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Speaker Rasul Guliyev could not arrive in Bishkek for talks with an

Armenian delegation and representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians. Instead, he sent his deputy, Afiyaddin Dzhalilov. Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev did not arrive for the talks, either: He chose another venue for a visit, Brussels. Yesterday, he signed an agreement on Azerbaijan's joining the "Partnership for Peace" program at NATO headquarters.

That Aliyev's demarche has been prompted by the desire to spite Russia was confirmed by its abruptness. By some accounts, it was precisely the recommendation not to rush the signing of the NATO program, given to parliament Speaker Rasul Guliyev the day before yesterday in Moscow, that "helped" the Azerbaijani president definitely to make up his mind. In addition, Azerbaijan, which has lost over 20 percent of its territory, has yet another reason to affix its signature to the "Partnership" agreement. The TURAN news agency has been told at the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry that units made up completely of Russian servicemen have been sighted seizing settlements and turning them over to Armenian formations in a number of front sectors (six villages in the Agdam district alone). At the same time, the "sighted Russians" use state-of-the-art military equipment, including T-80 tanks; the Russian Foreign Ministry would not comment on the report. [passage omitted]

Plight of Ethnic Russians Abroad Examined

PM0505135794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Orlov article: "Expulsion: Facts Cited by Russian Diplomats in Nearby Foreign Countries Demonstrate that Oppression of Russian-Speaking Population Is Becoming Systematic"]

[Text] From 26 to 28 April the Russian Federation president's Citizenship Commission, the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, and the Russian Federation Presidential Staff held a conference-cum-seminar for personnel of diplomatic missions and consular establishments. The seminar's theme was expressed rather dryly: "Questions of Citizenship and the Position of Fellow-Countrymen in Nearby Foreign Countries." However, the report by Abdulakh Mikitayev, chairman of the president's Citizenship Commission, the speech by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, and—most of all—the reports from Russian diplomats were imbued with genuine alarm at the plight of the Russian-speaking population in nearby foreign countries, first and foremost Estonia and Latvia.

The situation in the Republic of Latvia provides the most glaring example of the overt "expulsion" of Russians, Ukrainians, Belorussians, and Poles. Here are a few facts. According to the 1989 census 64.5 percent of the population of Riga were non-Latvians (mainly Russian), in Liepaja the figure was 61.2 percent, and in Daugavpils 87 percent. The figures have changed now, but at any rate 45-60 percent of the population in those cities is Russian. The vast mass of them were already deprived of citizenship (apart from those who were citizens of Latvia before 1940 and those of special service to the republic) and in 1993 they were deprived even of the possibility of participating in the formation of local self-government. The majority of them have the status of "permanent resident" and have only the hope of obtaining citizenship—as a rule an impossible hope.

A lot has been said about the language barrier. Let us add just a small comment here: Enterprise directors who hire Russians with no knowledge of the local language are liable to be fined. "Occupation forces—get out of the good apartments!" is a slogan you can often see in Latvia. At the moment, however, it is no more than a slogan.

In conversation with your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent, Georgiy Isakovskiy, head of the Russian Federation Embassy Consular Department in the Republic of Latvia, talked about the activity of the Latvian Ministry of Internal Affairs Department of Citizenship and Migration. Despite the fact that this structure's work is regulated by secret documents, which therefore have no force, it ventures to do things which violate the constitution and laws of Latvia. A circular stamp placed in a passport by the department denotes a Russian serviceman, a square stamp denotes a reservist. These marks are grounds for overt discrimination when it comes to hiring people and the registration of ownership rights. The Latvian press publishes lists of the Russian military complete addresses and telephone numbers—so everyone can display "civic activeness." Recently a highly sophisticated process began in which residents who travel to neighboring countries (Russia, Estonia, and Belorussia) [Belarus] to visit relatives are exiled [vysylayutsya]. They are forced to obtain Russian general civil foreign passports, and when they return to Latvia (people travel without a visa, of course) the Latvian residence permits in the former USSR passports are canceled and the Russian general civil foreign passports are stamped to prohibit them from entering the country for five years and order them to leave Latvia within seven days.

Tyranny? Yes, without doubt. And this is acknowledged by the Latvian courts when they restore the rights of permanent residents of the country. But by no means everyone goes to court—a large proportion of them sell their property within seven days and leave for Russia. If these people do not leave or appeal to the court action is taken against them...no, not by the law enforcement agencies but by detachments of the "zemessargi" [home defense guard].

It is staggering but true that a state structure—the Department for Citizenship and Migration—bases its activity on the "zemessargi." Organized on the pattern of the Volksdeutsche and Hitler Youth, these youth structures have the job of intimidating the Russian-speaking population.

But why are the permanent residents of the Republic of Latvia not expressing dissatisfaction, why are they not uniting? They have been banned from doing that. The charters of organizations whose purpose is to defend human rights in Latvia are not registered. If their charter contains no line to that effect but the organizations engage in this activity anyway, they are banned on the grounds

that they are not abiding by their charter. All associations of Russians in Latvia except cultural societies are essentially underground.

How can human rights violations in the nearby foreign countries be combated?

Boris Pastukhov described as urgent the signing of a "package" of agreements with Latvia (that is, together with the settlement of the situation concerning military pensioners). The Russian Federation deputy foreign minister noted that the Latvian side is dragging out the talks and in this situation a Russian action program is being prepared to protect the rights of specific inhabitants. Abdulakh Mikitayev declared that Russia must grant dual citizenship to residents after the conclusion of the corresponding accords with nearby foreign states, and cited the experience of France and Canada, where there are more than 2 million people with dual citizenship.

Russian Diplomat Criticizes Estonian Diplomacy

LD0505170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy, and others]

[Text] Another round of Estonian-Russian talks began in the village of Lohusalu near Tallinn on Thursday. Participants in it will discuss the time for Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia.

It's common knowledge that late last year Russia proposed to conclude the withdrawal of its remaining 25 hundred servicemen by August 31, on condition that social guarantees be granted to Russian military retirees living in Estonia.

Tallinn views this demand as "overstepping the framework of agreement and running counter to the bill on aliens adopted in Estonia."

Lately Estonian diplomacy "discredited itself" in the "Russian direction", a senior Russian diplomat in charge of Baltic problems told Interfax.

As he said, realizing the futility of its attempts to "turn the talks held on the level of governmental delegations in its own favor, the Estonian leadership is increasingly active in its efforts to raise them to the level of presidents."

"In fact, President Lennart Meri makes no secret of his wish to come to Moscow and meet with Boris Yeltsin. However Russia's attitude to this issue remains unchanged—a meeting between the two presidents can take place only if the Estonian side agrees to sign the entire package of "military" agreements with Russia. Apart from the main treaty on troops withdrawal, these documents include an agreement on social guarantees for Russian military retirees and their families. To Russia this agreement is no less important than the treaty on troops withdrawal, but Tallinn stubbornly refuses to sign it," the diplomat said.

According to him, "it's hard to expect any serious shifts" from the present round of Russian-Estonian talks." "No illusions should be nurtured in this respect. Estonian diplomats drove themselves into a corner, and now they will find it hard to get out of it," said Interfax's interviewee.

Experts Begin To Demarcate Border With Estonia

LD0505123194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1100 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Vlasov]

[Text] Pskov May 5 TASS—An expedition from the Russian Federation's chief directorate for geology and cartography has begun drawing the border line between Russia and Estonia near Pskov "on the basis of old and new data, maps and official documents".

During negotiations with Estonia, the Russian delegation repeatedly called on the Estonian side to begin joint work to demarcate the state border but heard refusals each time.

The Russian leadership decided to begin marking and reinforcing the border unilaterally, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev announced during his visit to Pskov in April. He stressed then that "the border must reinforced with technical means but not with the bodies of Russian soldiers". The minister was referring to the shooting of a Russian border patrol by contrabandists specialising in arms trade.

The expedition will mark the border on the terrain in May and then the border guards will install special signs and protection devices.

Swedish Premier Holds Talks in Moscow, St Petersburg

Kozyrev Previews Talks With Bildt

LD0505165594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1553 GMT 5 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 5 May—Relations between Russia and Estonia and, in particular, the problem of the withdrawal of Russian troops will be the subject of an exchange of opinions at the meeting between Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Sweden's Prime Minister Carl Bildt.

At St. Petersburg's Pulkovo-2 airport, where the head of the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry arrived today, he told journalists: We shall withdraw our troops from Estonia solidly and in a worthy manner on the basis of an agreement which, if it is concluded without delay, will allow our forces to be withdrawn by 31 August 1994. Unfortunately, no signals have yet been seen from the Estonian side indicating that they intend to conduct the talks seriously, Andrey Kozyrev said.

The minister stressed that Russia is capable of settling its relations with Estonia by itself. However, Russia welcomes it when other states help in resolving problems, as happened during the talks with Latvia. Carl Bildt and the leaders of other countries played a positive role in achieving a compromise.

Andrey Kozyrev called attention to the fact that after the withdrawal of troops from the Baltic states, the question of observing CSCE norms and international standards in the sphere of human rights will remain urgent. We consider, the minister said, that Sweden and other states are not extraneous to this question. We are against human rights' problems being turned into just bilateral questions.

Russia, Kozyrev noted, favours setting up in the Council of cooperation of Baltic Sea states the post of commissioner for human rights and ethnic minorities who would have quite a lot of work to do in the Baltic region.

Speaking of links with Sweden, Andrey Kozyrev described these relations as good. The Swedes, he said, display a business-like approach in partnership within the framework of the CSCE and at a regional level.

Kozyrev Comments on Talks

LD0505202594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1857 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg May 5 TASS—"The head of the Swedish Government agreed with me on the need to establish a post of a commissioner for human rights and national minorities in the states of the Baltic Sea," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told a news conference devoted to the results of his meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt today.

When discussing the condition of the Russian speaking population in the Baltic countries, the Russian foreign minister noted, both sides came to the conclusion that this is an all-European problem and it must be settled in strict accordance with the norms of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the generally recognized human standards.

In reply to a question why Estonia does not wish to follow the Latvian way in the talks with Russia, Carl Bildt said that the situation in Estonia was more complex. However, he noted, with a goodwill [as received] from both sides it is possible to reach a compromise. At least, the conclusion of a package of agreements between Russia and Latvia may serve an example for other states.

The Russian foreign minister and the Swedish premier drew attention to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina which sharpened again. According to them, the world community should take urgent constructive measures so that the situation around the town of Brcko did not get out of control. Otherwise, it will be practically impossible to return to the peaceful development of the events there.

Andrey Kozyrev and Carl Bildt believe that their working meeting in St. Petersburg was a success. They stated that similar dialogues should be continued.

Bildt on Troop Withdrawal From Estonia

LD0505175494 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1545 GMT 5 May 94

[Correspondent Sten Sjostrom report from St. Petersburg]

[Text] Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt today visited St. Petersburg, where he met Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The most important question in the negotiations was the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Baltic countries.

[Begin Bildt recording] I think there is a Russian will to withdraw. We have had a dialogue around these questions and other questions concerning the Baltic countries, and I believe that this has been of importance, both for Russian policies and for developments generally. [end recording]

Last week, the presidents of Russia and Latvia signed an agreement on Russian troops withdrawing from Latvia on 31 August at the latest. The Russian Army has already been withdrawn from Lithuania, so the only remaining country now is Estonia. Prime Minister Bildt has involved himself deeply in this matter, and Estonia was also the main theme at the negotiations between Bildt and Foreign Minister Kozyrev. A vital question is, what sort of status the thousands of retired Russian military personnel will have, people who often are not older than 40-50 years; Russia managed to sign a special agreement with Latvia which will regulate their position in the society: They have the right to stay in Latvia but they will not receive Latvian citizenship. Estonia has refused point-blank to sign any special agreement, and said that Russian military personnel will be subject to the laws on citizenship and laws on aliens which already exist. It looks, at least on paper, that it is Estonia which right now is most actively stopping an agreement on getting the troops to leave. So the question is, should Prime Minister Bildt not be putting pressure on Estonia, instead of Russia?

[Begin Bildt recording] No, I think such pressure should lie mainly on the Russians, because it is Russia which has troops in Estonia; it is not Estonia which has troops in Russia. It is a fundamental principle in international law that one is not allowed to have troops on the territory of other states without the agreement of these states. There are a number of questions which have been raised in connection with this from the Russian side; those questions we will also try to solve, but they are not allowed to be decisive; the withdrawal of the troops must be completed by 31 August. [end recording]

Bildt, Sobchak Discuss Cooperation

LD0505165094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Rumyantsev]

[Text] St. Petersburg May 5 TASS—"The Baltic region can and should become a dynamically developing and stable area. Our country will do everything it can to make that a reality", Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt told St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak on Thursday.

Not everything is going smoothly as concerns the creation of a favorable economic and political climate between the Baltic states, the Swedish premier said, but progress has been noted. Mutual understanding has increased and fewer sharp attacks are being made on each other.

Bildt and Sobchak agreed that Swedish businessmen would be more active on the St. Petersburg economic scene if the criminal situation in that city was not so dangerous. They both were of the opinion that Sweden and St. Petersburg must coordinate the efforts of their law-enforcement bodies.

Bildt even proposed that the leaders of all the Baltic countries discuss the idea of creating a regional coordination centre for the fight against crime. "We are very worried by the growing influx of narcotics into our country from abroad and by the appearance of illegal immigrants, which encourage the growth of crime", he announced.

The Swedish premier also appealed for more political cooperation. "all kinds of different party and public organisations should take part in the political dialogue, including communists and nationalists, which we have as well", he said.

Sobchak Assures Safety for Western Firms

LD0505193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1704 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Mayor of St Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak has said the authorities were doing their utmost to try to ensure perfect security for western business there. He was speaking on Thursday while meeting Swedish Prime Minister Karl Bildt who arrived in St Petersburg to attend Swedish Days there.

In this connection, Sobchak pointed to widespread western rumors that St Petersburg had become a highly dangerous place for business activity.

About a month ago, the U.S. consulate in St Petersburg compiled a report about the city's rampant crime which was later published by U.S. newspapers. The report warns businessmen and tourists against visiting St Petersburg and expresses concern over high crime rates in the region ahead of the Goodwill Games which will involve U.S. sportsmen.

Sobchak and Bildt have both expressed satisfaction over the state of relations between Russia and Sweden.

Yeltsin Visit to Germany Previewed

LD0505150494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1244 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry regards Russian President Boris Yeltsin's forthcoming official visit to the Federal Republic of Germany as a great event in the face of a new stage of relations between Russia and Germany opening with the accomplishment of the Russian troops withdrawal from Germany, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

According to Grigoriy Karasin, the Russo-German summit talks which will be held on May 11-13, will "focus on the issues connected with the prospects for the further development of bilateral relations and their progressive advancement on the road of strengthening neighborliness, mutual understanding and the establishment of many-sided partnership cooperation".

Both leaders will also exchange views on a wide spectrum of problems of a world policy and the interaction between Russia and Germany on the world arena, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

Russian Troop Withdrawal From Germany Viewed

LD0505212494

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1625 GMT on 5 May, the "Details" program carries a recorded 10-minute report on the planned departure of Russian troops from Germany. Sergey Dorenko outlines the scenario over video showing Russian troops loading their equipment on to trains, and says: "The Germans have finally contrived to offend the Russians: The Russians are given to understand, quite clearly, that their presence here, unlike that of the Western allies, is simply only tolerated." He goes on to ask what can be done about the situation, and suggests that maybe Yeltsin can do something.

A video sequence then recalls the entry of the allied troops into Germany at the end of the World War II. Dorenko says: "All the armies were regarded as liberators. Now they are leaving Germany without explosions or counterattacks. But the Russian withdrawal resembles the shameful retreat of losers. The heart of the problem is that the farewell to the Russians is scheduled to take place in Weimar. It is planned that on 31 August, President Yeltsin and Chancellor Kohl will attend the ceremony in the local theater. But a week later, widespread festivities are planned in Berlin, the country's historical capital, at which all Germany will say goodbye to the Americans, British and French."

Dorenko then traces the assumed reasons for this situation, saying that the Western allies were not just occupiers; they were seen by Germans as their defense against the communist aggression of the East, personified by the Russian troops in their country and in the former East Germany.

Matvey Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces, then presents his views, saying: "Probably the best thing would be a joint farewell to all the allied troops in the

anti-Hitler coalition. And there are good grounds for this: On 7-9 July, a G-7 meeting with our president, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, will take place in Italy. It would be very good if, at that time, after the end of the meeting, the leaders of those states came to Berlin for a joint leave-taking—in other words, they would eliminate the consequences of World War II. We want to have a farewell in Berlin. The war ended in Berlin. The Soviet troops too should depart from Berlin. Unfortunately, I think that it is the German leadership that has suggested a leave-taking scenario that is not very acceptable, or rather, is unacceptable to us. "First, as regards the venue, what is Weimar? During the war, the town of Weimar was liberated or captured by American troops.

It is 350 km from the places where our troops are stationed. So they will have to travel all that distance, 350 km. We plan to invite a large number of veterans from the Western Group of Forces and from the war. Needless to say, transporting the veterans there—six hours there and six hours back—will not be much fun for them.

"Second, near Weimar is the huge Buchenwald concentration camp, where 56,000 people perished, and a common grave was dug for the peoples of Europe or even the world. I think it would simply be sacrilege to dance on that common grave. So my personal view is that I reject Weimar."

Dorenko then points out that no one wants to confuse relief at the Russian withdrawal with gratitude to the Western allies. The Russians are leaving not of their own good will, but because communism has been defeated. Maybe Yeltsin can reach some agreement during next week's visit.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev tried to clarify the situation. He said: "There are a few nuances on the German side as regards the troop withdrawal issue. Boris Nikolayevich is to pay an official visit to Germany 11-13 May. I will be present as a member of a government delegation. One of the questions to be tackled will be a final decision on the procedure for the withdrawal, the ceremonial withdrawal, of our troops from German territory. I am sure that the president and the chancellor are quite...[pauses] will find a correct, alternative...[pauses] not alternative, but correct decision on the withdrawal, the ceremonial withdrawal, of the troops."

Dorenko then points to the difference between the American and Russian troops, saying: The Americans are taking nothing with them apart from their weapons. They will be replaced by U.S. firms, since the premises they occupy have been purchased from the Germans. The Russians are taking everything, even the toilets. Many soldiers know that no accommodation awaits them in Russia.

Grachev comments again, saying: "What is being done? A great deal is being done. First, 7.8 billion Deutschmarks [DM] were invested in us initially, then a further DM550 million. With this money 32 military cantonments should be constructed by foreign firms before the end of 1995. That is with all the infrastructure. Thirty-two military cantonments with 34,590 apartments, of which three residential cantonments have been constructed so far, and the construction of 22 is under way; there will be 22 cantonments with between three and nine ready every month, but in practice this year a further 22 cantonments will be commissioned through the efforts of foreign firms, although foreign firms are basically to blame for the delay, but they cite the bad climatic conditions, the harsh winters and, in general, the vast expanse of Russia."

Dorenko comments: "The officers in the Western Group of Forces recall that a considerable amount of the aid has been spent on putting up buildings in Ukraine and Belarus. One can lament as much as one likes now: It is clear that there are no apartments and no money, and that a further 32,000 military personnel and their families have to be housed somewhere."

Toward the end of the program, Grachev says: "I sincerely congratulate all veterans, all frontline troops, on the great Victory Day. May the sacred day of 9 May be the start of our spiritual unification for the sake of Russia's prosperity."

Foreign Ministry Urges Rwandan Cease-Fire

LD0505214794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1236 GMT 5 May 94

[ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Test] Moscow, 5 May—The Russian side again urgently appeals for the provisional government in Rwanda, the army command, and the Rwandan Patriotic Front to display responsibility for the fate of their country and security in the region, and to cease firing immediately and return to the negotiating table to begin implementing the Arusha agreements. This appeal was made today at a briefing by Director of the Press and Information Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Grigoriy Karasin.

At the current time, he said, Russia is looking at the possibility of assisting with humanitarian aid to the suffering inhabitants of Rwanda.

Foreign Ministry Calls For Cease-Fire in Yemen

LD0505171694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1612 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 5 May (ITAR-TASS)—Alarming reports are coming in from Yemen about an escalation of military actions between northern and southern Yemeni military formations, which have spread to various areas of the country. Government establishments in Saana and some other parts of the country were subjected to bomb strikes, and clashes are occurring in the Aden area. Large-scale forces are involved in the fighting, and tanks, artillery, and aircraft are being employed. This is stated in a Russian Federation Foreign Ministry statement which has been received by ITAR-TASS.

"These developments to all intents and purposes nullify the efforts that have been undertaken recently by many

countries, including Russia, with a view to averting an escalation of the conflict between the northerners and southerners, and to inducing the Yemenis to seek mutually acceptable solutions and the preservation of the country's unity. In effect, the threat has arisen of the conflict escalating into civil war, which will inevitably bring the Yemeni people fresh suffering, large-scale casualties, and political chaos.

Stemming from its traditional friendly relations with the Yemeni people—in both the north and the south of the country—Russia urgently calls on the opposing sides to cease hostilities immediately and to find within themselves the courage to settle their differences peacefully. Moscow considers that, whatever the reasons motivating those involved in the conflict, nothing can justify the killing of people, bloodshed, and destruction.

Despite the depth of the internal differences in Yemen, Moscow believes in the political wisdom of its leaders, who have in the past shown their ability to tackle the most complex problems on the basis of the interests and aspirations of the Yemeni people," the Russian Foreign Ministry statement says.

Russians To Be Evacuated From Yemen

LD0605125594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] An Il-76 plane of the Russian Ministry for Emergencies is flying off from the Zhukovskiy airport at Moscow at around 13:00 Friday to Djibouti in the Horn of Africa to pick up Russians in Yemen, where fighting is continuing between troops from the north and south of that state in southern Arabia, a ministry spokesman has reported to Interfax.

Talks Held on Russian-Chinese Border Demarcation

LD0605102194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Beloivan]

[Text] Vladivostok May 6 TASS—"Russo-Chinese border's demarcation will allow us to normalise the situation in the border areas, where passions are now very high," roving ambassador of the Russian Foreign Ministry Genrikh Kireyev, head of the Russian part of the demarcation commission, told a briefing here today.

He said that an expedition would go to the Ussuri District this month to prove Russia's sovereignty over ten square kilometres of hunting grounds, now claimed by China.

The ambassador said that an early demarcation of the border would meet the interests of both sides, while the ratification of agreements on the revised borderline would "rule out the possibility of mutual territorial claims in the future".

The members of the demarcation commission especially stressed that the interests of the local population should by no means be jeopardised during the demarcation. According to Kireyev, the possibility of jointly using of some of the disputed areas was now being discussed. Moreover, both China and Russia are ready to make mutual concessions concerning small border strips. For instance, China is ready to transfer to Russian jurisdiction a part of the territory in Khasan district. Soviet borderguards, killed during the conflict near Lake Khasan, are buried there.

On the whole, it is planned to end the demarcation work on the Russo-Chinese border in 1997.

Progress in Talks Reported

LD0605083694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 0730 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The demarcation of the Russian-Chinese border will make it possible to normalize the situation in the border region where passions are now flaring up, Genrikh Kireyev, ambassador at large of the Russian Foreign Ministry, is convinced. The diplomat, who heads the Russian side of the demarcation commission, held a briefing here today. In particular he said that an expedition will be undertaken this month to Ussuriyskiy Rayon where specialists intend to cite arguments to prove Russian ownership of 10 square kilometers of hunting grounds which China is claiming.

'Alarming' Situation on Mongolian Border Discussed

LD0605065194 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0130 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The situation on the Russian-Mongolian border on the Tuva Republic sector was discussed in Kyzyl at a meeting of representatives of the border guards, of the bodies of law and order and customs, and heads of the state structures of Russia and Mongolia. The participants in the talks agreed that the situation on the border between the two states had become alarming of late. Border violations have become increasingly frequent. Cattle rustling has become a real calamity for (?natives) who live in the areas along the border. Smuggling is acquiring menacing proportions. It intended to sign a protocol today on the results of the talks, which should initiate the drawing up of a draft document on the settling of cross-border issues.

Political Issues

Premier Said To Reprimand Ministers, Seek Dismissals

MK0605092094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Yelena Kolokoltseva, Aleksandr Bekker report in the "Council of Ministers" column: "The Premier Is Unhappy With the Ministers' Discipline. He Told Them So Without Witnesses"]

[Text] At yesterday's session of the Council of Ministers Presidium the Russian Government deemed "unsatisfactory" the general state of discipline in ministries and departments. INTERFAX, citing government sources, reported in particular that out of 296 presidential directives to ministries and departments only 156 were executed in full. As SEGODNYA's correspondents have learned, Premier Chernomyrdin's statement was couched in extremely sharp tones. This must be why journalists were not allowed into this session while the "chosen" press learned about the results of the presidium session from Mr. Grishin, deputy chief of the government press service.

Although one of the reasons for the premier's sharp tone was apparently his "grudge" against the vice premiers who had earlier twice disrupted the meeting, the course of the session shows that Viktor Chernomyrdin is in full control of the situation and can allow himself such a style in dealing with his cabinet. According to Mr. Grishin, the performance of the Economy Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the State Property Committee [Goskomimushchestvo] was criticized most toughly. According to some reports, emergency conferences were held in the latter two departments immediately following the end of the session. Mr. Grishin also said that the government decided to reprimand and reprimand severely "a number of high-ranking officials." Furthermore, according to SEGODNYA's sources, Anatoliy Chubays was advised to remove Valentin Sychkin as deputy head of Goskomimushchestvo, which is effectively equal to his dismissal. In early 1993, however, Mr. Chubays managed to stand up for two of his deputies: Dmitriy Vasilyev and Petr Mostovoy, whose resignation Viktor Chernomyrdin demanded immediately after his confirmation as premier. Mr. Sychkin is in charge of Goskomimushchestvo divisions dealing in real estate, including Moscow real estate. According to Mr. Grishin, the decision about the dismissal of other highly placed executives (the reference is apparently to First Deputy Economy Minister Andrey Shapovalyants) was postponed until their return from business trips abroad.

Grishin Reports Criticism

LD0505163094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The Thursday sitting of the Russian Government recognized that ministries and departments do not satisfactorily fulfill instructions of the Cabinet of Ministers and the president. This issue was being considered behind the closed doors.

The first deputy head of the cabinet's press service Valeriy Grishin reported to journalists that the premier sharply criticized federal ministries and departments "in stringent tones" due to the fact that they do not fulfill instructions of the president and the government and underlined that he "would not let any delays in fulfillment of instructions."

In Grishin's words, the worst executive discipline is within the Economics and Finance Ministries, and in the State Property Committee which have not fulfilled the greatest number of instructions.

Sources close to the Cabinet told Interfax that the following data were mentioned at the sitting: As of May 1, ministries and departments have completely fulfilled 156 of 296 instructions, six have not been fulfilled at all and the rest are on the preparation stage.

The government has recommended to release one of the deputy chairman of the State Property Committee from his post and two deputies Ministers, their names are not being voiced yet.

High-ranking employees, including leaders of several departments in the government have received severe reprimands and warnings.

Chernomyrdin Speaks at Accord Signing Ceremony

LD0505184294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] At a second signing ceremony in the Kremlin on Thursday, 141 senior Russian business executives put their signatures to the Civic Accord, a civil peace pact between Russia's reformists and hardliners.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, addressing the ceremony, said many people in Russia were today pinning their hopes on the accord. "We have all witnessed the completion of an important stage of a nationwide endeavor to achieve social conciliation on the most burning and acute problems," he said.

"The Civic Accord meets the main task, a search for civilized methods, a comparison of various views and principles and conflicting ideas of how we should further develop the society and economy of Russia," all of which should be done without "political confrontation," Chernomyrdin continued.

He paid special attention to section two of the document, proposing ways to overcome the current social and economic crisis. Beside setting general goals, the section declares economic stabilization to be the shared responsibility of the legislative and executive branches of authority, the industrialists, business and trade unions, the prime minister said.

He pointed out the fact that the signatories of the accord included prominent bankers. Stabilization would largely depend on their ability to satisfy the economy's "investment hunger," he said.

Chernomyrdin said it was particularly important to provide normal market conditions for agriculture. But those problems should be tackled jointly with those who actually work in the fields and are building new economic relations in agriculture, he said.

"The government will keep its promise to the rural population: it will support their work within reasonable and possible limits," the premier said.

He said the government had also pledged to make it easier for farmers to exercise their property rights, to provide normal conditions for competition, and to draw up a taxation system that would stimulate production.

The country is still deep in crisis, "but we can already feel solid ground under our feet. Now we must move on. For that the country needs the perseverance and conscientious work of every member of society. We can't afford to have a flabby state," the prime minister said.

The Civic Accord had brought national conciliation nearer, he said. What is important now is to create an effective mechanism to make it work, for instance permanent high-level consultations between various governmental bodies and political and public organizations, Chernomyrdin said.

He called the Civic Accord a good remedy for the "civil war syndrome," in economics as well as in politics.

Yeltsin Aide Rejects Idea of Accord 'Threshold'

PM0605105594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "New Influential Forces Accede to Accord Treaty"]

[Text] The widespread thesis that Russia is incapable of living according to civilized norms can today be considered repudiated. The Accord Treaty signed 28 April has given us reason to talk about the first signs of political stabilization in the country, and this process is continuing. A solemn ceremony involving major, influential organizations—associations of industrialists, entrepreneurs, and banks—acceding to the treaty was held 5 May in the Kremlin's Vladimir Hall. And although this time it was the premier rather than the president who was chairing it, and only the deputy heads of both chambers of parliament in the presidium, the significance of the event should not be belittled.

As V. Volkov, deputy leader of the president's administration, told your IZVESTIYA correspondent, the listed associations represent a very considerable force today, not just in the economic but also in the political sphere. They include around 120 different structures, including the Union of Entrepreneurs and Leaseholders, the association of commercial banks, and industrial groups. Members of the Public Chamber, representing economic structures, will also be signing.

Obviously, the question arises: Why have these associations been categorized, so to speak, as second in importance, and who determines who should be allowed to sign the treaty? According to V. Volkov, no one has set up a waiting line. At first a general decision was made to invite political parties and movements and power structures in the regions and at the federal level to sign. Political stability in society depends primarily on them. The process of acceding will subsequently be conducted as follows:

When a sufficient number of applicants to sign has been collected for a ceremony to be held (applications are sent in to the organizational section, the territorial administration of the president's administration, and the Public Chamber), another ceremony will be held in the Kremlin. Representatives of youth and sports associations and certain veterans organizations will most likely be next to sign the treaty following the current ceremony. They have already submitted the relevant applications. As for rumors of the Agrarian Party's possibly acceding to this document, they are unconfirmed at present.

How long can this process go on? What level of numbers and influence is acceptable for a particular organization to accede to the treaty? The representative of the president's administration was also asked these questions. He believes that the process will not degenerate to the point of absurdity. Furthermore, no one is involved in calculations about the influence and numbers of particular organizations, since such calculations would mean introducing a certain threshold of participation, whereas the aim has been different from the outset: to attract as many potential supporters of peace and accord in Russia as possible to the Treaty.

Volskiy on Social Accord Treaty

LD0505164594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—"We, representatives of business circles, expect much of the treaty", President of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Arkadiy Volskiy said in interview with TASS on Thursday.

This view is shared by other participants in today's second-stage signing ceremony in the Kremlin, during which Russia's major industrialists, agrarians, entrepreneurs and bankers put their signatures under the treaty on social accord.

The main thing that prompted the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs to sign the document is renunciation of the use of force and any actions involving bloodshed, Volskiy added. He noted that so far the point at issue has been accord in the political sphere, but this is not enough for the economy. The next thing to do is to work out appropriate measures with a view to stop the current economic recession and output decline, the industrialist

believes. "Unless we manage to pass this stage, unless we achieve economic accord, the treaty will become senseless", he stressed.

Presidential Aide Georgiy Satarov told reporters that the country's business community had been amply represented at today's signing ceremony. Their role is especially significant now that the crisis is being aggravated, and they may become the principal force to help overcome this crisis, the aide emphasised. He reported that the next stage of the signing would take place on May 12. This will not be the last stage, since the document is open for further signing by any organization concerned and interested.

Shumeyko Briefs Yeltsin on Karabakh Talks

LD0605091194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0822 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (ITAR-TASS)—In the Kremlin today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin met with Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council. First results of the signing of the Treaty on Public Accord were reviewed. The two men also discussed cooperation between the president and the Federation Council. This was reported by the press service of the President of the Russian Federation.

Vladimir Shumeyko also informed Boris Yeltsin about the results of the Bishkek talks on settlement of the conflict in Nagorno- Karabakh.

Central, Nizhniy Novgorod Appointments Reported

PM0505123594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Official"]

[Text] By edicts of the Russian Federation president:

Vladimir Filippovich Shumeyko has been relieved of his duties as chairman of the Russian organizational committee for preparing and implementing measures in connection with the celebration of memorable dates of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War because of his election as chairman of the Federal Assembly Federation Council.

Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, has been elected chairman of this organizational committee.

Ivan Petrovich Sklyarov has been appointed head of the Nizhniy Novgorod city administration for the period through the election of the city's head of local self-management.

Zhirinovskiy Party Urges Yeltsin 'To Restore Justice'

LD0505124094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1122 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The high council of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by Vladimir Zhirinovskiy sent an open letter to the Russian president in which it grieves over the party's woes, calling for "urgent measures to restore justice."

The letter circulated today highlights the party's achievements and in particular, the fact that the majority of citizens had voted for the Constitution only thanks to active support given to the Constitution by the LDP. The letter contains complaints over the fact that "the LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had not been given the right to form a new government and was not even received by the president after the elections."

Among other things, the LDP high council complains that the leader of the victorious party was not admitted to the mass media, that there is not a single minister from the LDP in the government and that "both the party and its leader are being outrageously attacked and unscrupulously slandered."

The LDP leadership expressed "surprise" at an interview given by Boris Yeltsin to the FIGARO newspaper in which Yeltsin "indirectly accused the party and its leaders of advocating fascism."

Baburin Predicts Opposition To Come to Power

MK0405100094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 4 May 94 p 4

[Interview with opposition politician Sergey Baburin by Yan Ulanskiy: "Sergey Baburin: We Shall Come to Power in the Fall"—place and date not given]

[Text] [Ulanskiy] Sergey Nikolayevich, the face of those in power is always better seen from the opposition trenches. What do you think of it?

[Baburin] A mafia has long come to power.

[Ulanskiy] ??? [as published]

[Baburin] I didn't think this up. Everybody has been talking about this for more than a year. Today mafia-like criminal structures have unleashed an unprecedented political terror. They are killing deputies, torching their apartments. There was no such thing in the Soviet Union. The Federal Counterintelligence head has recently admitted the existence of "Betar" Zionist armed formations.

[Ulanskiy] Do Betar men terrorize deputies?

[Baburin] I didn't say that. I don't think they are involved. But they do exist.

[Ulanskiy] You spoke resolutely against the signing of the Treaty on Social Accord. Has your attitude to this document changed now?

[Baburin] It has not. I continue to think that it is the highest degree of hypocrisy to sign something behind the people's back. It doesn't even smack of accord so far.

[Ulanskiy] What guideposts would you set on the "Russian road" [allusion to Baburin's group] to accord?

[Baburin] We will come to accord one generation from now at best. One should not entertain any illusions here. As for civil peace, we must come to it immediately. Because the only possible alternative is war. Why do I say no accord is possible? What sort of accord could there be between someone who has been stealing and someone who has been made a pauper? But their differences must be resolved without butchery. Therefore, as the first guidepost, we should sit down and decide what we regard as the first priority in the area of the economy, which measures would rescue the economy and which enjoy the support of all sensible political forces. All forces that have influence in society. Such figures.... who have discredited themselves as leaders should go, owing to the failure of their economic and political policies.

There should also be accord in regard to individuals: someone should quit, someone should come in. And there should either a coalition government be formed, or it should be stated flatly, who is going to form a one-party government. Today we can see that no single party wishes to take over responsibility for what is going on in the country. Not a single one. In our parliament there are 10 factions, but I do not think you could find even one that would call itself the ruling faction.

[Ulanskiy] What about Zhirinovskiy? He constantly trumpets his victory in the elections.

[Baburin] No! He always underlines that they would come to power only in the fall. Like hell! It is ourselves who will come to power in the fall.

[Ulanskiy] We?

[Baburin] We, is the Russian pan-national union and state-patriotic organizations. We have no use for either today's ruiners or impostors who chant patriotic slogans while having always supported the ruining of the country in practice.

[Ulanskiy] Power is wonderful. But who is after all going to decide today on who is to quit the political stage and who is to emerge onto it?

[Baburin] Parliament, among others. If it finds no common language, well, early elections should be called both for parliament and president. There's nothing awful about that.

[Ulanskiy] Do you agree with the slogans with which the implacable opposition has defiled the White House environs: "Prosecute Yeltsin's Gang," "Betar is the Guard of Bandit Yeltsin," and so on?

[Baburin] I usually make use of terms I understand. This topic is so far very painful for me, and I do not touch on it in passing.

[Ulanskiy] Does this mean your stance is that of open radicalism, that you do not call for violence, for the overthrow of today's authority?

[Baburin] For resignation, yes; for overthrow, no. So far! [Interview ends]

P.S. Baburin's last "so far" rang out like a tocsin. That single short remark showed that the opposition has already recovered from last October's concussion. It has rejected the treaty on accord in society only because it needs no two-year or even one-month truce. It is ready for spilling fresh blood now to satisfy its own ambitions.

Security Council Official on Current Functions

LD0505191294 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Video report by correspondent A. Sladkov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] In the range of problems connected with insuring our country's security, the main question is the protection of Russia's present borders. This view was expressed by Valeriy Manilov, deputy secretary of the Russian Security Council, at a meeting with journalists today.

Preserving Russia's unique scientific and military-scientific technology, halting the outflow of intellectual and scientific potential to the West, stabilizing Russian policy in the Asia- Pacific region, and solving the problem of the Black Sea Fleet should become equally important areas of the Security Council's work, Valeriy Manilov said.

The increasingly unstable economy is a source of considerable danger for the country, Valeriy Manilov believes. The Security Council intends to play a special role in the further establishment of Russian political links with the United States and the countries of Western Europe. The first step is the prompt examination of options for Russia's entry to the Partnership for Peace program.

[Begin Manilov recording] There is a pressing need to consider all the consequences and results of joining, and above all, to take account of Russia's status as a great power by definition. [end recording]

Filatov Rejects Conclusions of Expert Team on Elections

LD0605092694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0910 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—The conclusions of Aleksandr Sobyanin's expert team on the results of the elections to the Russian Parliament and of the December 12 referendum "smack of an outright provocation", ITAR-TASS was told by Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential administration.

Commenting today on the article published by the newspaper IZVESTIYA, which claims that the "results of the elections and the referendum were rigged", Filatov said that the conclusions of the team "play into the hands of the irreconcilable opposition" at the time when the social concord agreement is being signed.

As to the team itself, which the newspaper claims to be "a team under the presidential administration", it is pertinent to note that it "has nothing to do with the administration", Filatov said.

"There is a team headed by Sobyanin, which used to analyse the results of the elections, the voting in the supreme soviet, etc., from the very first Congress of People's Deputies," Filatov stated. "Later, those people went into science," he added. The head of the presidential administration said that he was "most doubtful" about the methods they are using in their calculations.

Filatov said that a denial of the article was drawn up and would be handed over for publication to the newspaper IZVESTIYA.

Three Killed by Explosive Device in Moscow

LD0505185594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1633 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—An unidentified explosive device which a passerby was carrying exploded in the Fakelny Lane near the Taganskaya Metro Station in Moscow at 14:25 local time killing the passerby himself and two other people who found themselves near him. Two people were wounded. This was reported by the "NTV" television company in the evening news program on Thursday.

The circumstances of the incident are being investigated.

Print Media To Get Further R64 Billion 'To Survive'

MK0605093094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 p 6

[Valeriy Davydov report in the "Press" column: "The Minimum Task Is To Survive. The Russian Press Committee Is Fully Aware of This"]

[Excerpt] It has been decided to allocate an additional 64 billion rubles in subsidies to the Russian press before the end of 1994. This was announced at a press conference in the Russian Press Committee. Asked where this money will go, Committee Deputy Chairman Sergey Gryzunov said that this will be decided by a subsidy distribution commission that will include journalists, politicians, and government officials. A priority right "to survive" will be given to publications which, by the committee's recognition, have "a worldwide reputation."

It was stated unequivocally that the issue today is precisely survival. The press is in such a condition that it needs a trillion rubles only in subsidies! Such funds, it was said, are unavailable.

Yet the Press Committee does not see the fact that newspapers are dying as anything tragic: After all, factories and mines are also dying! The only thing that really bothers it is the authorities' cynical attitude to books and the press. They, in Mr. Gryzunov's expression, have been put next to vodka and tobacco. [passage omitted]

Economic & Social Issues

Chernomyrdin Comments on Economic Crisis

LD0505122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1130 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 5 May—Civil accord is essential now "more than ever, so that we can roll up our sleeves and work for Russia," said Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, opening the second phase of signing of the Treaty on Social Accord in the Kremlin today. He called the document "a good medicine for treating the civil war syndrome not only in politics but in the economy, too".

In the opinion of the head of government, people "who are advancing the reforms, and by whose hand the domestic economy is being moved, remaking itself" had assembled in the Vladimir Hall of the Kremlin. Addressing industrialists, bankers, and farmers, Chernomyrdin stressed that the Treaty meets the main task "of seeking out civilized ways of bringing together personal views and approaches in order to develop the economy." In his view, this search should go beyond the field of political confrontation, "where nothing can be grown except weeds."

The head of government noted that the president, government, Federal Assembly, political parties, and public movements had made considerable efforts to get going the kind of machinery which could generate ideas and bring conflicting sides together. He believes that the Treaty "is only the start of the search for accord. The most important part of this idea is still ahead."

The prime minister assured people that the government had taken on specific pledges to deal with the paramount tasks "to stabilize the situation, move the economic reforms forward, reduce the inflation rate, implement structural reorganization, increase investment activity, and create the conditions for development of the agro-industrial sector". Chernomyrdin expressed the hope that active support for this would come from the entrepreneurs, bankers, leaseholders, and all businesses. He sees implementation of the Treaty only through working together. He also gave assurances that the government was obliged to pursue an active social policy aiming to target support at the vulnerable in society.

"We are now at the height of the crisis, but we can already feel solid ground beneath our feet," the head of government noted. In his opinion, "we need to push off from here and move upwards. To do that we need accord and the conscientious work of every member of society". "We cannot allow ourselves to have a crumbling state," the head of government stressed.

Chernomyrdin Briefs Media Editors on Economy

PM0505172494 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 First Edition pp 1-2

["Abbreviated transcript" of concluding speech by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at 26 April meeting with editors of national and regional newspapers in Moscow: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: The Country Must Unite and Achieve Accord"]

[Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Government, has decided on a state subsidy to Russian newspapers totaling 110.4 billion rubles through the end of 1994. This decision was adopted at the prime minister's meeting with a large group of editors of national and regional newspapers.

It was also determined at the meeting that the distribution of the resources allocated by the state will be carried out by a public council made up of leaders of central and local media under the Russian Federation Committee on the Press.

During the meeting there was a thorough discussion of the situation and problems of the central and regional press and the need for financial support for the majority of publications, especially in economically weak regions. The basic provisions of a draft Russian Federation law on state support for the mass media were also discussed. Viktor Chernomyrdin briefed the chief editors in detail on the situation in the national economy and the government's economic policy.

In the course of the discussion the chief editors received the maximum information necessary to them not only for their daily work, but for an unbiased view of the state of affairs in the country. This gives them the opportunity to look more critically at the established view that the government supposedly lacks understanding of the problems of the press. The government regards the press not only as the "Fourth Estate," but as the "number one" sector, to whose situation it intends always to pay the keenest attention. Today we publish a transcript (abbreviated) of Government Chairman V.S. Chernomyrdin's concluding speech at the meeting with editors.

[Chernomyrdin] So where are we now? That is almost a philosophical question. We are going through a difficult period in the economy. Throughout the year 1993 people were threatening us with all kinds of cataclysms, and they are threatening us now, trying to rock the boat at any price. I must say that this no longer works with the government.

We do not do everything right, not everything works out for us, but I wish to say again that our government is now operating as a single organism, it has acquired the shape of the kind of government that the Russian state should have. That process—I have never said this before—took 18 months. And in very difficult conditions. You name it, we had it. But now, as long as people do not distract us and keep nudging us, and let us get on with our work, I have grounds for optimism.

There is no vacillation in the government. That does not mean that everyone is living, so to speak, in perfect harmony, that it is all unanimous. I would not accept that situation, when one person says something and everyone else nods. We have been through that before, we have seen it before. On the contrary, this is a government in which every member has his own opinion, his own view of matters, these are people who are united by their concern for the state, people who understand what is required of them, what they must do, and how they should do it.

The government apparatus, for all its shortcomings, is also beginning to gain strength and experience. I am sure, therefore, that the difficulties that have still to be overcome are within our government's power.

A few words about economic affairs in general. The results give me no particular reason to boast or to reassure myself, or you. Because the situation is complex. The decline in production is continuing, and has not yet been stopped. That is our main affliction today. Questions of nonpayments are interwoven with these problems. In general, however, the financial system is beginning to stabilize. First and foremost, we have succeeded in curbing inflation. With the exception of January, we have reached a stable level and are maintaining it. Yet do you remember how people said that we could not do it, that we would not be able to? Anyone would think someone else was going to do it on our behalf. We are keeping and will keep inflation within the limits indicated in the government program in August 1993.

We do not today set the goal of reducing inflation to zero. And we are criticized for that. I do not agree with this criticism. You could reduce inflation to zero quickly. If you stopped everything else: factories, plants, transport. That is intolerable! It simply means ruin for the country. It is no use pressing and squeezing so hard that all production processes stop completely. We are in a period in which it is necessary to keep a very sensitive finger on the pulse.

It is well known that factories are coming to a halt and plants are stopping work. The worst thing is that enterprises are closing that should not be closing, enterprises the country needs, with modern technology and essential output. But there are others that not only should, but simply must be closed. **We no longer need so much of what the defense industry produces. We make mines; for three years now no one has wanted them; yet the shoe factory next door is on the brink of stoppage. So what is more important to us today? We do not need all these mines**, yet we make them, because those people would be out on the streets otherwise. And there are so many plants like that in Russia! They were intended for the entire Soviet Union, which, at the time, stood against the whole world. And today, Russia is suffering because of this.

Here the time factor plays an enormous role in many ways. It took a year for the Omsk tank plant to start producing tractors, when they wanted to do it in three months. No way. It turns out that a tank is easier to make than a tractor for a farmer. They can't do it, they don't know how. The ones they did make might as well be made of gold. One

defense plant, for instance, made a pumping jack—not a single oilman wanted one. Because they made it to their own standards and put in components which made it three times the price of any imported model. Nobody bought them, and nobody will! The consumer does not want these jacks, and that means the country does not want them. **It is madness to operate on the principle of "at any price." Those days are gone. But some managers have still not grasped that fact, they expect to beg or extort the money, they expect to be given money from the treasury. They will not get it!** If they go on like that, what they will get is bankruptcy.

Can we get by without bankruptcies? No. I would like to go into this particularly. **Bankruptcy is being used deliberately to intimidate people. Who is intimidating them, and why?** Who is trying to trivialize the matter and present it crudely—the gates are locked and the workers are outside the gates? When an enterprise goes bankrupt, as a rule privileged conditions apply to it: It is exempted from taxes and dues, for a certain period it is, in effect, given financial support so that it can go over to a new form of production. We have many enterprises that were built many years ago and have already operated for 30-40 years. Some need knocking down completely and rebuilding from scratch, others need to replace their technology and equipment, others again should be combined with similar enterprises. There is opposition. Why? **Because, with bankruptcy, there is, without fail, a change of management. And this instills such fear in the managers that they are prepared to goad their own people into opposition, as long as nothing is changed.**

Is a rescue service needed? Of course. And that means that funds for which provision is made in the budget will go to support those enterprises without which the national economy simply cannot function. We have some enterprises which are, so to speak, "one of a kind," which everyone needs. We incorporate special items in the budget for such enterprises, and there are funds which should work for their support.

I am saying all this because, after all, we are not likely to be able to stop the decline in production this year. The rate of decline must be halted, the trend must be broken. So we will channel all our resources and reserves into this, both intellectual and material.

What is the most important thing today? Investments. You could say that for two years we have all but stopped investing in the naational economy. And without that, we will never get anywhere. Hard as it may be, even if it means tightening our belts still further, investment processes must be revitalized. It is therefore important to get this across to people, to explain that Russia cannot survive without new, up-to-date technologies.

To this day some enterprises are still working to fill the warehouses, and there are a good many of them. What is the investment process? It is not only capital investments, not merely increased production capacities, although that is sometimes necessary too. It is also the updating of the machine tool pool, of equipment and technologies, it is thorough processing of raw materials and other materials. It is output quality. And, of course, it is competitiveness on the world market.

About rural problems. We are now making adjustments to the budget and increasing resources for the development of the agro-industrial complex, because there is no alternative. Things have always been difficult in the countryside, but today they are more difficult than ever. Therefore let us channel some of our resources—even bypassing credits, that is, basically, giving interest-free subsidies—into supporting the agrarian sphere at this stage. It is not enough to declare that we will not buy grain from the West, we still have to produce it ourselves. And not only grain. Therefore more attention must be paid to rural people. They cannot be made into scapegoats. It is too serious a matter. Often people try to blame everything on them, to argue that the agro-industrial complex is a bottomless pit in the national economy. But we were the ones who put them in that position. So let us rectify those conditions.

A question that is of concern to everyone is—where are we, in fact. As I understand it, and as calculations show, **we have reached the low point in the crisis decline. But we can now feel the firm ground beneath our feet. Now we must find our balance correctly and use this ground as a jumping-off point so as to start to climb again. And we are capable of doing this,** because even today Russia retains a very considerable potential. Even today it is by no means a poor country.

We are gradually paying off our debts, for the second year now we are not asking anyone for anything, we just want Russia to enjoy conditions on the world market that are not humiliating, but equal, as for any other state. You remember, 24 billion [dollars] was mentioned, and then more than 40 billion.... We have not received much yet—$3 billion. And we are going to receive 3 billion more. But these are all credits, this is not some kind of nonrepayable aid, it is debts which will have to be repaid. So this is not, so to speak, the secret of happiness. **The main condition which we uphold everywhere is that we should not be kept in the lobby of the world market, like poor relations. We have something to offer in trade, we have competitive output.** And this does not only mean raw materials! We have metal, metal products, machine tools, developments in space programs, in atomic power engineering, in nuclear matters, where we can compete. But we are being held back. They are still setting conditions, for instance, for us to enter the European Community, and that means that in effect they are discriminating against us. We can and should operate on equal terms, so as to pay our way and solve our own problems. And this would only make matters easier for our partners, too.

Why am I saying this? We are not poor, and we produce quite a lot, even given this rate of decline. We are shutting down oil wells, but we have enough fuel. We could produce more output. But what are we to do with it? We could produce more metal, but we cannot sell it. We could offer a different fuel, nuclear fuel—we just cannot produce as much as we could sell. We have to stop production units,

and that means accelerating the recession. Military plants are closing down—there are problems everywhere on the weapons market. They give us nice big smiles, but when it comes to the crunch, suddenly there are thousands of reasons for not allowing us access to the Western market.

Now, about money. Say what you like, the ruble has held its ground. Maybe this is not so noticeable for us, but if you compare it with what is happening in the neighboring CIS countries, you can see that our tough line has produced and is producing results. People are no longer running away from the ruble. For the first time we have seen from State Committee for Statistics figures and from bank statistics that people have started accumulating rubles, saving them.

I have explained this before, maybe I am repeating myself. You could relax the financial pressure, ease up on the monetary and credit policy, print more money, add to the enterprises' circulating capital, and settle accounts, but then we will once again be presenting an intoxicating picture of running on the spot, supporting everyone indiscriminately. And we do not want all that! **We do not want a feeble and mediocre country—that is what some people refuse to understand, as they try to push us back into the old quagmire of universal parasitism and lack of responsibility.** Of course Russia should have an effective defense complex, it should have a modern industry up to world standards, producing output that is competitive on any market. Russia cannot, by virtue of its history and its very nature, be an underdeveloped country willing to be fed by others. Therefore we can no longer have a feeble policy: that of giving to everyone and supporting everyone. But it is not enough simply to understand that, it must be brought home to people, explained to them. Maybe we do not talk about this enough, but it is the main issue today.

Here the role and position of the press is particularly important. You journalists, better than anyone else, understand and feel the country's pulse, the people's mood. Try to explain what is most important—we must all unite. I think the Treaty on Social Accord will take effect, but much will still have to be done for the accord to be realized, for it not to remain only on paper. The country must unite and achieve accord. It is not discord we need now, but cohesion.

A problem of statewide significance is the struggle against crime. The federal program on this topic, which was recently approved by the president, must be fulfilled. We are trying to provide everything that the program stipulates in the budget. And we must give the maximum, because the people no longer understand us. The fact that you cannot walk the streets, that you cannot travel by train, that you cannot go on the subway—this is simply impermissible. The state's role here is paramount. Of course, it is not all just up to the law enforcement organs. This is a scourge that we must all deal with together, and the press too must play a more active part.

Much depends on you. It is no use shying away from it now, a lack of restraint in the press and permissiveness in life cannot be tolerated. You must criticize, you must argue, but you must not insult or offend people just for fun, for the sake of a fine turn of phrase. This annoys people and tears society apart. Sometimes you read things and wonder: Is nothing sacred any more? Anyone would think we were not living in the same country. This is what must be left behind, you can do it, you know how.

I think all you have to do is try. The government will meet with media workers and leaders—I promise you that. You must know more, you must have the information. You must see how the government operates, so that you can put us straight when necessary. You can do that too, you know how.

Of course it is upsetting to see needy people, the plight of pensioners and war veterans is distressing. But we will support the veterans and the low-paid, we will pull up the living standards of the needy. This is not unfounded populism. Our rate of income is already above the rate of inflation.

Today we are beginning here to break the negative trends that characterized the country's development over the last two or three years. And we will break them, but it needs patience, for the sake of the country, for the sake of the children, so that they do not find themselves in a humiliating position. Hard times have fallen to our lot, we must bear it and we must respond. Let us grit our teeth, and things will be easier for all the people. And we will come through. We cannot fail to come through. We do not have the right. And I will not accept any other viewpoint today.

Government To Give Up Centralized Grain Imports

LD0505191794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] At the moment, Russia is sufficiently provided with grain to enable it to give up centralized grain imports, Russian Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha told a news conference in Moscow Thursday.

Zaveryukha dismissed reports in the Western media of projected purchases of grain in the USA saying no talks had been held on this issue.

According to his information, enterprises of Roskhlebo-produkt stored 17 million tons of grain, while another 1.5 million tons may be purchased from domestic farmers. Therefore, given a monthly consumption of 2.8 million tons, the stocks will last for six months.

Zaveryukha pointed out that the minimum purchases of grain would be made only for Russia's northern most regions and the Far East due to a high cost of shipping grain to the regions from Central Russia. However, these purchases, which have already amounted to about 200,000 tonnes, will be made exclusively on a commercial basis, without state participation.

Moreover, Russia has already exported three million tons of last year's grain to neighboring republics.

Zaveryukha established the fact that given average harvests of 100 million tons Russia was quite capable of

providing itself with grain. At the same time, he refrained from prognosticating about the future harvest, because "much would depend on weather conditions."

Over recent years, Russia has traditionally imported grain. In 1992, as many as 26 million tons were delivered to Russia, while in 1993 grain imports exceeded 10 million tons.

Deputy Premier on Most Difficult Stage of Reforms

LD0605092794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0834 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 6 TASS—"The Russian economy has embarked upon the most difficult stage of reforms. We must see that they bring sprouts of revitalisation and not new sufferings to the country," First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets told the newspaper "ROSSIA". His interview is published in today's issue of the daily.

Soskovets said that the government had begun to determine what projects should be supported from the budget. It was decided to render government support to the coal industry. It is to get from the budget 3.4 trillion roubles in the first six months of this year. A decision was also adopted to settle in the first quarter of this year the mutual debts of several enterprises of the defence industry, the agro-industrial sector, and the fuel and energy complex. Quotas were fixed for the export of strategic raw materials, as well as customs duties for imported goods. A list of federal programmes that are to be financed from the budget this year was drawn up. All but ready are proposals to effect state control over railway fares and over the cost of electric and thermal energy. "Not all the measures can be regarded as 100 per cent market oriented, but the government is compelled to take them," Soskovets stresses.

"In spite of some successes, the economic situation remains unstable," he notes. "Crisis phenomena were not stemmed last year. The situation in the first quarter of this year is characterised by the continuing industrial slump, shrinking capital investments, accompanied by the growth of prices for factory-made products and consumer goods."

"The steps taken by the government are still not yielding the expected results," Soskovets states. At the same time, he stresses that "market relations are gaining strength in the Russian economy and measures are being taken to reduce the social burden of the transition period. Steps were taken to curb the inflation. The process of privatisation is proceeding quite dynamically. The non- state sector of economy is gaining momentum. The investment decline was slowed down. The consumer market is being restored. The country's foreign trade balance is favourable."

Health Statistics Show Growth of 'Sick Generation'

LD0605014794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1515 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Liliya Luznetsova]

[Text] Moscow, 5 May—The extremely poor state of the nation's health is indicated by the infant mortality level. Over the last three years a constant increase in the number of children not surviving their first year of life has been observed in Russia.

Whereas in 1990 an average of 17.4 babies per 1,000 births were dying, the figure became 17.8 in 1992, 18 in 1993, and 19 a year later.

These figures from the Russian Federation's national report to the eighth world conference on the situation of women, which is to be held in Beijing next year, are capable of shocking medical specialists throughout the world—which is not surprising since in the advanced countries the figure for baby mortality in recent years has not only not increased, but has indeed decreased and stabilized at a level of five to eight deaths of children in their first year per 1,000 births.

According to statistics there has been a deterioration too in the health of babies. Whereas three years ago one in seven babies were born ill or became ill, the figure rose in the following year to one in six, and a year later it was one in five.

A steady increase in illness among children below the age of 14 years has also been noted. Our children are particularly suffering from illnesses affecting the organs of the respiratory tract, the alimentary tract, and the nervous system.

The number of congenital deformities and development defects is also growing. The number of such defects per 1,000 people has increased by over 28 percent, while the number of tumors in children has risen by almost a quarter.

The appearance of a "sick generation" of Russians is shown by the fact that child invalids alone in the country (by WHO estimates) now number hundreds of thousands. In the pre-school age group, 15-20 percent of children are suffering chronic illnesses, and by the time they leave school almost half of the children are limited in their choice of vocation by the state of their health. Specialists claim that only one tenth of Russian schoolchildren are in practice healthy.

Military & Nuclear Issues

General Views New Weapons Manufacturing Problems

LD0505220094 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Due to the economic difficulties in the country, the financing of military orders and research in Russia has

been reduced approximately 10-fold. Some enterprises are simply refusing to produce military equipment. At the request of our correspondent, Colonel General Sergey Mayev, deputy commander in chief of the Russian land forces, comments:

[Begin Mayev recording] Russia will be able to maintain its position among the leading manufacturers of new types of weapons. What is my conviction based on? First, the fact that we have always had very powerful scientific and technical ideas and our military industry is very powerfully developed. [end recording]

As for the drop in financing, the general said that it is always 1.5-2 times lower than in the advanced Western countries. The difference has of course now greatly increased, but this gap, in the view of the general, can be bridged by the internal resources of defense enterprises. General Mayev does not reveal what resources they are, but he thinks that they include the use of high- technology, the search for unconventional production and scientific solutions, and the best possible implementation of conversion.

As for the types of weapons which are a priority in the Russian Army and the defense industry, according to Gen. Mayev, deputy commander of the Russian land forces, it is a queston of two areas: The development of traditional types of weapons and the creation of promising systems. He said that the latter included high-precision weapons, means for gathering intelligence and managing forces. This is the principled approach taken by the Russian military toward the weapons issue within the new Russian military doctrine.

Nuclear Explosions Moratorium To Continue

LD0505162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Russia intends to continue the moratorium on nuclear explosions with the aim of securing favorable conditions and political support for conducting multilateral talks on working out a treaty on the comprehensive nuclear test ban, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

Commenting on the second round of these talks due to begin within the framework of the disarmament conference in Geneva on May 16, Grigoriy Karasin stressed that the treaty to be worked out was not only a means for the strengthening of the nuclear non-proliferation regime but also the important step towards the furtherance of strategic stability.

The Russian side regards work on this treaty as a "priority direction in the activities of the disarmament conference in 1994", the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told journalists.

According to Grigoriy Karasin, at the forthcoming meeting Russia will seek to "intensify multilateral talks with the aim of preparing a treaty, possibly by the spring of 1995 which would considerably promote the success of the oncoming conference devoted to the prolongation of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty scheduled for this period".

Defense Ministry Notes State Debts to Army Growing

LD0505195794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] A meeting of the commission for financial issues of the Russian armed forces presided over by First Deputy Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin Thursday focused on the results of financing the army over the first four months of this year and the spending of particular units and districts.

Salaries of officers and civilian personnel, food, nuclear security and combat training were among the priorities. It was pointed out that the withdrawal of Russian troops and their accommodation required an unprecedented amount of money.

As for the funds set aside from military appropriations to pay for the state defense orders, they were used mainly to pay for the production of combat management and communications hardware, high- precision weapons and radio and electronic counteraction means.

According to a Defense Ministry statement, the meeting was told that financing the army activities involved long delays, while the state's debt to the army and the defense industries continued to grow.

Fire Rages at Beloyarsk Nuclear Power Station

LD0605110194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0952 GMT 6 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow, 6 May (ITAR-TASS)—The fire which broke out at Beloyarsk nuclear power station (Sverdlovsk oblast in the Urals) at 0924 at the third power unit of Beloyarsk AES was still not extinguished by 1300 today. The ITAR-TASS correspondent was informed of this in the Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Ministry of Atomic Energy of the Russian Federation.

In the opinion of specialists, the workforce, population, and environment are not being affected by radiation. The accident has been given a preliminary assessment of level one on the international scale of nuclear incidents (the levels are graded one to seven—Chernobyl was grade seven).

The fire broke out during repair work on the third power unit which has been under repair since 23 April. There was a leak of non-radioactive sodium from the drainage of the secondary circuit in one of the machine rooms. The sodium ignited. Efforts to extinguish the fire are continuing.

Government To Construct Launch Site in Far East

LD0505185894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1704 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The decision whether Russia will construct its own launch site on the basis of a strategic missile division stationed in the Far East will probably be made before the end of 1994, a spokesman for the Russian space forces told Interfax Thursday.

According to the U.S.-Russian Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, a center for testing and use of space equipment is to be set up on the basis of the strategic missile division near Svobodny-18, Amur region. In the division's silos, most of which have been dismantled, there were 60 NATO class SS-11 missiles.

Experts believe that the first launch from the site will quite possibly take place in 1996 as projected. Nevertheless, the only work currently in progress in Svobodny-18 is aimed at maintaining the city's infrastructure and the remaining silos. Looking for ways to launch the Rokot carrier rocket from both a silo and a pad is also going on.

According to the officer, Rokot may be used both for military and research purposes. The modification of the launch pad for Rokot had virtually not been started, he added. "If the order were given, it would take no longer than six months to accomplish the task," he said.

The three-stage light carrier rocket Rokot was designed by the Salyut bureau on the basis of a combat missile RS-18, due to be dismantled under the START-2 treaty. Rokot is capable of taking space equipment weighing up to two tonnes to a near earth round- circle orbit with an apogee of about 1,000 kilometers and that weighing less than 300 kilograms to an elliptic orbit with an apogee of up to 40,000 kilometers above the surface.

Rokot has a launch weight of 106.7 tones and is 24.6 meters long, with a maximum diameter of 2.5 meters. The Khrunichev State Space Research and Industrial Center is now developing booster stages for Rokot.

Privatization of Energiya Rocket, Space Firm Approved

LD0605104194 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0630 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] Authorization has been given for the flotation of one of the largest Russian rocket and space firms, the Energiya research and production association [RPA] named after Korolev. In pursuance of a government decision, the Energiya rocket and space corporation named after Korolev is being created from the Energiya RPA and its subsidiary in the town of Primorsk in Leningrad Oblast in the form of an open joint-stock company.

Fifty-one percent of the ordinary shares, amounting to 38 percent of the total number of shares issued by the corporation, have been assigned to the federal authorities. Ten percent of the total number of shares are set aside for purchase by the corporation's work force. In accordance with a stipulation from the State Committee for the Management of State Property [Goskomimushchestvo], the organization of a sale of 12 percent of the corporation's shares at a closed check auction is being changed.

The Energiya corporation's articles of association should be presented to the Russian Government within a month. Yuriy Semenov, general director of the Energiya RPA, has been appointed president of the corporation until the first shareholders' meeting.

Intelligence Denies Nuclear Espionage Claim

MK0505141094 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 5 May 94 p 14

[Mikhail Lashch report: "Russian Intelligence Service as Book Reviewer. The FIS Refutes Key Theses of a Book on Nuclear Espionage"]

[Text] Last week, the Russian mass media started publishing excerpts from the memoirs of Pavel Sudoplatov, a grand master of Soviet espionage and sabotage in the 1930's-1950's. One of its main sections is devoted to the intelligence service's involvement in the creation of Soviet nuclear weapons and contains sensational revelations implicating the world's key scientists of the time—Enrico Fermi, Leo Szilard, and Robert Oppenheimer—in leaking Western nuclear secrets to the USSR. Yesterday, your KOMMERSANT- DAILY correspondent asked Tatyana Samolis, press secretary of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service [FIS] chief, to comment on the allegations.

Ms. Samolis told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the FIS chiefs have already worked out their stance on the matter. They think that some passages in Sudoplatov's book are a compilation of actual events, half-truths, and pure invention. The FIS still holds the opinion that Soviet scientists made a decisive contribution to the creation of nuclear weapons in the USSR, whereas intelligence efforts, albeit important and qualified, had only a secondary role to play.

The FIS director's press secretary did not deny that starting September 1941 the Soviet intelligence service did receive truthful information on efforts to create nuclear weapons in the United States and the United Kingdom, something which helped solve a number of technical problems and accelerate the process of nuclear arms development. But events related to intelligence activity in that area and the roles of many players were interpreted in too free, often even incorrect, a manner in Pavel Sudoplatov's memoirs.

Although special services tend to avoid specific comments on their methods and sources of information, this time Ms. Samolis categorically denied allegations contained in the book that the Soviet intelligence service received information on the nuclear problem directly from as prominent scientists as Fermi, Szilard, and Oppenheimer.

Denies Oppenheimer Sold Atomic Secrets

LD0505120494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1011 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Olga Semenova]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service denied reports that a group of famous US A-bomb designers had sold the secrets of the weapon to the former Soviet Union and added that Soviet spies had played only a "support role" in the creation of the mass destruction arms in the USSR.

"Allegations that Soviet intelligence received information on atomic bomb directly from such noted scientists as Enrico Fermi, Leo Scillard, Robert Oppenheimer and others do not correspond to reality", the press bureaus of the Foreign Intelligence Service said in a statement for TASS on Thursday.

It was commenting on the allegations published in a book of former Soviet top KGB agent Pavel Sudoplatov.

The intelligence service also said that the book is a "mosaic of truthful events, semi-truth and open inventions".

"The very events and the role of many participants are interpreted in a free and often the wrong way", it said adding that the author exaggerates his role in the creation of the Soviet A- bomb.

"The atomic and thermonuclear weapons were created in the Soviet Union mostly thanks to a mighty scientific, technical and intellectual potential. The decisive contribution was made by a big group of scientists", the press service said, but admitted that Soviet intelligence learned in September 1941 about the nuclear research which was going on in the United States and Great Britain.

"Later in close contact with scientists it organised the delivery of secret information from abroad which helped Soviet experts in solving a number of complicated scientific and technical problems and decreased the time in which the Soviet Union designed its own atomic weapons", the press service said.

It added, however, that "as far as the contribution of the intelligence to the creation of the Soviet A-bomb is concerned, its important and skilled work in the interests of the state played a support role".

Federal Assembly

Duma Urges Limit to Foreign Borrowing, Lending

MK0505135094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Yelena Kolokoltseva report under the "Money" rubric: "Budget Committee Intent on Tightening Control Over Foreign Debt. Draft To Be Considered Following State Duma's Move"]

[Text] The State Duma budget committee's subcommittee on currency regulation has drawn up the draft federal law "On the Maximum Amount of Foreign Borrowing by the Russian Federation and the Maximum Amount of Credits To Be Granted by It to Foreign States in 1994." The draft law is designed to tighten control over the growth in Russia's foreign debt, which has already exceeded $80 billion. Under the draft law, Russia's international treaties on attracting or granting state credits are subject to mandatory ratification by parliament. In that respect the draft law is a logical follow-up to the presidential edict "On the Procedure for Decisionmaking on the Conclusion of International Treaties" of 8 November 1993.

It is well known that thanks to negotiations with its creditor countries, Russia paid only $2 billion in 1992 and $2.2 billion in 1993 instead of the $20 billion due under the initial payment schedule. In 1994, payments toward debt servicing and debt repayment, taking into account those postponed from 1993, are expected to reach $32 billion or an estimated 70 percent of overall exports forecast for 1994 by committee specialists and IMF experts—of course, unless Russian negotiators manage to reach an agreement with Western creditors on debt rescheduling, restructuring, or canceling a part of the debt altogether. At the same time, according to the draft's authors, "International experience has shown that countries exceeding the debt-servicing rate of 25 percent tend to be unable to cope with the debt problem on their own, without a partial cancellation of the debt."

Given that, the lower chamber's budget committee has proposed that the parliament ratify not only agreements on attracting or granting credits that exceed the upper limit it would set annually, but also where the amount of money to be attracted or granted exceeds $100 million.

The subcommittee has also proposed that the limit of foreign borrowing for 1994 be reduced to $4.7 billion, whereas the Finance Ministry, drawing on its calculations, has suggested that it be raised to $5.7 billion. It is expected that the draft law will be considered by the State Duma at one of its first meetings after it moves to its new building.

Duma Supports Black Sea Economic Cooperation

LD0505214394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1941 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—Russian State Duma deputies attach great importance to the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly for the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, Valentin Kovalyov, deputy chairman of the State Duma and head of the Russian delegation participating in the parliamentary assembly, told a news conference on Thursday.

The news conference was devoted to the results of the work of the committee for culture, education and social activities of the parliamentary assembly.

This is the form of the parliamentary integration, Valentin Kovalyov stressed, which has prospects for the development of friendly relations between countries of the Black Sea basin, a spokesman for press service of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation told ITAR-TASS.

The participants of the news conference urged to speed up the ratification of the convention on cooperation in the field of culture, education, science and information.

In addition, the committee of the parliamentary assembly for the Black Sea economic cooperation plans to resolve the problem of the mutual recognition of diplomas and scientific degrees in member countries, organize more often creative meetings, book fairs, and widen and maintain contacts in the field of culture and education.

Representatives of the committee told journalists that a resolution was adopted on Wednesday which proposed to give a new impetus to the program for historical study of the Black Sea basin.

Parliament To Ratify Agreement on Free Trade Zones

LD0505164994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1519 GMT 5 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS]

[Text] Moscow May 5 TASS—The Russian parliament is preparing to ratify an agreement on the creation of free trade zones signed by heads of state and governments of the Commonwealth countries, Vladimir Meshcheryakov, deputy chairman of the state customs committee of the Russian Federation, told BUSINESS-TASS.

According to Vladimir Meshcheryakov, the Federation Council plans to hold hearings on the preparation for ratification of this package of documents on May 16.

The signing of the agreement on the establishment of free trade zones, the deputy chairman of the state customs committee noted, is the first stage in the process of economic drawing together of the Commonwealth countries. The second stage will mark the transition to a customs union.

In both cases, Vladimir Meshcheryakov explained, there will be no quantitative and tariff restrictions in mutual trade but the existence of free trade zones does not prevent the state from the independent determination of its foreign economic policy. After all, a customs union is first of all common customs tariffs.

Vladimir Meshcheryakov paid attention to the fact that a concept of free trade in the Commonwealth is not applied in a pure form now. In practice the so-called exceptions from the free trade regime are employed which were legalized by bilateral agreements between Russia and other Commonwealth countries signed in 1992-1993.

These exceptions concern export tariffs, quotas and licenses. For this reason the agreement signed by leaders of the Commonwealth countries on April 15 is considerably advancing the Commonwealth towards the establishment of a customs union, Vladimir Meshcheryakov pointed out.

Travkin May Represent Government in State Duma

MK0505100094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 p 1

[NEGA report under the "In Brief" rubric: "Nikolay Travkin's New Appointment"]

[Text] According to trustworthy information, the question of appointing Nikolay Travkin, leader of the Democratic Party of Russia, as Russian Government representative in the State Duma is now being decided. In this connection Nikolay Travkin obviously would have to retire as chairman of the Democratic party faction in the lower house of the Federal Assembly.

Regional Affairs

Shakhray To Head Mission To Negotiate Chechnya Treaty

MK0605122094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Commission for Talks With Chechnya Set Up"]

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a directive on approving the lineup of a delegation to negotiate a draft treaty on the mutual delegation of powers between Russia and the Chechen Republic. The government delegation, to be made up of officials from various ministries and agencies, will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, minister for the affairs of nationalities and regional policy.

Stepashin Proposes Tough Talks With Chechnya

LD0605121694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] President Boris Yeltsin could meet with his Chechen counterpart Dzhokhar Dudayev only if the Chechen president recognized that his republic is part of the Russian Federation. However, it is more likely that a dialogue with Dudayev will be conducted by Russia's Premier Victor Chernomyrdin since economic talks are seen as the chief means for Moscow and Groznyy to smooth their relations. The Russian Counterintelligence Service Director Sergey Stepashin made these statements at a meeting with lawmakers and cabinet officials from Kabardino-Balkaria in Nalchik Thursday [5 May] night.

On the situation in North Caucasus, Stepashin noted that regional stability was wishful thinking without a settlement with Chechnya. The way it is, as Stepashin put it, the republic poses a threat for Russia's stability. For one thing, he stressed, Grozny financially supports opposition movements across the North Caucasus.

A dialogue with Dudayev, in Stepashin's opinion, should be pursued in "a tough key," and the prime task is to safeguard the railways crossing Chechnya.

According to Stepashin, there is an entirely different situation in Kabardino-Balkaria, where the president, parliament, and government are explicitly in favor of keeping Russia's integrity as a state. He called for using Kabardino-Balkaria's potential to guarantee peace in the North Caucasus, normalize the situation in the region, advance the negotiating processes, and draw up recommendations on how to settle conflicts, above all between Osetians and Ingushes.

In regard to rampant crime in Russia, Stepashin urged the stiffening of the federal penal code and judicial system. By federal intelligence information, there are about 150,000 guns in private possession in Russia, and some Russian gangs are even armed with heavy weapons.

Stepashin: Chechnya Must Be Seen as Part of Russia

LD0605094294 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] A meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Dzhokhar Dudayev can take place only on condition that the Chechen leader recognizes that his republic is a part of the Russian Federation. Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, said this at a meeting on Thursday evening with members of the parliament and government of Kabarda-Balkaria in Nalchik. He expressed the view that Viktor Chernomyrdin is most likely to hold a dialogue with the Chechen leader since economic talks are the main way of resolving relations between Moscow and Groznyy.

Regarding the situation in the northern Caucasus, the director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service noted that one cannot speak of stabilization in the region without a settlement of relations with Chechnya. Stepashin said that, in its present form this republic represents a threat to the stability of the Russian Federation. In the view of the head of Russian counterintelligence, dialogue with Dudayev should be conducted in a tough manner and the primary task is normalization of the situation on the railroads crossing Chechnya.

Ossetian-Ingush Plan Presented to Yeltsin

MK0505133094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Nazran—Isa Kostoyev, chairman of the Russian Federation Council's Constitutional Legislation Committee, stated that together with Ingushetia's justice minister he has prepared for President Yeltsin proposals on settling the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. In particular it is proposed—under the supervision of an authorized representative of the Russian Federation president—before 20 May to return all refugees and forced resettlers to six residential areas in Prigorodnyy Rayon and by 20 September to return them to all the rayon's villages. "The provisional administration can do a lot if it wants to, but its leadership has no such wish," Mr. Kostoyev said. "Vladimir Lozovoy should be replaced and the provisional administration moved to neutral territory."

Gagiyev Elected Ingushetia Parliament Speaker

MK0605113094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Provincial Chronicle" rubric]

[Text] Nazran—The Ingushetia People's Assembly has recalled Speaker Murat Keligov and accepted the resignation of his deputy Azamat Nalgiyev. Unanimously elected two months ago, Murat Keligov has stated: "The question of confidence in myself has been raised by the president, and I believe the will of the president should be fulfilled." The man elected to the position of speaker is Visangirey Gagiyev, former first deputy parliament chairman, chairman of the committee for the affairs of refugees and forced resettlers. The question of deputy chairman has been postponed till the next session.

Accident at Kolskaya Nuclear Power Plant Denied

MK0605074094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 6 May 94 p 2

[Dmitriy Frolov report under the "Atom" rubric: "No Accident Has Occurred at Kolskaya Nuclear Power Plant. But the Region's Electric Power Supply System Is Under Threat"]

[Text] The report about an emergency shutdown of the fourth power unit at the Kolskaya Nuclear Power Plant, which was carried by news agencies and Russian television on 4 May, is not true. At any rate this is what Georgiy Kaurov, chief of the Atomic Energy Ministry information administration, said. In a conversation with your SEGODNYA correspondent, he explained that the planned shutdown of the power bloc to replace spent fuel cells occurred much earlier—on 29 April—and did not have any bearing on any emergency situation.

Nonetheless, this interest in the shutdown of yet another power unit at the Kolskaya Nuclear Power Plant has been aroused not only by the Chernobyl syndrome. The power plant produces 60-70 percent of the Kola peninsula's electric power. The second and third power units were shut down for emergency repair even earlier. Presently, only the first power unit—the oldest one, which was put into operation back in 1973—is operating at its design capacity (440 megawatts). This power unit was involved in what was probably the most serious accident at the Kolskaya Nuclear Power Plant: on 2 February 1993, a hurricane broke the supply of external electric energy; two emergency diesels units that powered cooling system pumps were also put out of action. For two and a half hours the reactor was cooled by the natural circulation of water in the circuits.

In terms of security, the current situation at the power plant is not comparable with that one, but not so in terms of the threat posed to the region's electric power potential. The situation has been exacerbated by perennial failures of consumers to repay debts. Last September they nearly caused a shutdown of the nuclear power plant and a disconnection of debtors from their power supply.

Lezghins, Azerbaijanis in Daghestan Demonstrate

LD0505213694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2059 GMT 5 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhiy Shamov]

[Text] Makhachkala May 6 TASS—Lezghins and Azerbaijanians living in Derbent in the Republic of Daghestan (in southern part of the Russian Federation, between the eastern greater Caucasus and the Caspian Sea) held crowded rallies in various parts of the city on Thursday.

There were also skirmishes between the representatives of the two nationalities, sometimes gunshots could be heard. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

Units of the Interior Ministry troops and OMON (riot police) arrived in Derbent from neighbouring districts and managed to stabilize the situation. However, the tension was not relieved completely.

Both Lezghins and Azerbaijanians put forward nationalist mottoes and demanded at the separate rallies that heads of the city and district authorities resign.

The participants in the rallies appealed to the republic's leadership to restore order to Derbent and to the southern part of Daghestan as a whole and to protect the rights of the local population.

The cause of the unrest traces back to a quarrel between several Lezghins and Azerbaijanians which took place the other day and ended in a fight and shootout. As a result, two Lezghins were killed, several people, including teenagers, were wounded.

After that, a hundred of Lezghins blocked a motor way leading to Derbent. They stopped a car, in which Sayid Kurbanov, head of the district administration, his deputy and head of the Derbent police rode.

The policeman-driver was disarmed by unidentified persons.

Kurbanov was arrested and taken to an unknown locality "to continue the negotiations". He was released soon.

Chuvash President Terminates Soviets, Forms New Authorities

LD0505200294 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] Chuvashiya President Nikolay Fedorov has issued an edict terminating the duties of the deputies of the soviets of all levels in the territory of this republic. Their mandates have now run out. This is connected with the elections to the new bodies of power. In those places where new bodies of authority have been only partially elected, consultative meetings of the new deputies will operate. In other places, heads of administrations will temporarily carry out the duties of the new authorities. Run-off elections in Chuvashiya have been planned for the end of May.

Agenda of Altay Parliament Session Reported

MK0505143094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Altay Republic"]

[Text] The third session of El-Kurultay—the State Assembly—has begun in Gornoaltaysk. The following questions have been submitted for the deputies' consideration: the republic's plan of action and guidelines of socioeconomic development in the period from 1994 to 1996; on standing commissions of the State Assembly of the Republic of Altay; the draft law "On the Right of Citizens To Acquire for Private Ownership and To Sell Plots of Land for Personal Subsidiary Farms, Summer Houses, Gardening, and Individual Housing Construction;" and the draft law on culture. In addition, it is planned to make amendments to the Law of the Republic of Altay "On Natural Resources and Their Use" and to consider the procedure of granting licenses for the use of the republic's natural resources.

Tatar Leader Says Aid From Moscow Vital to Economy

MK0505132094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "Provincial Chronicle" column]

[Text] Kazan—President Shaymiyev has stated that a high- level bilateral commission will soon be set up to examine the implementation of treaty-based obligations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan. He stressed that without assistance from Russia the economic situation in Tataria would have been substantially worse. "At present we are receiving much more from the federal budget for current expenses than we remit. To conduct spring agricultural work alone the republic has received an easy credit of 65 billion rubles, which exceeds our contribution to the Russian budget by almost 10 times."

Tatarstan Parties View Treaty on Accord

944F0667A Kazan KAZANSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 4 May 94 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Democrats Separate Themselves From Liberals"]

[Text] On Saturday in the House of Culture of Medical Workers there was a conference of the Equal Rights and Legality [RiZ] voter bloc.

As became clear from the discussion, in 20 of the republic's rayons the bloc's activists had not yet submitted registration documents to rayon executive organs. In seven of them the documents have been submitted and the organizations have been registered.

RiZ has postponed the question of compiling a consolidated list for the forthcoming elections to representative organs of power of the Republic of Tatarstan until the lists of candidate deputies in political organizations are coordinated.

The greatest amount of discussion was evoked by the second question on the agenda, which was raised by

republic People's Deputy Z. Latypov—on the RiZ voter bloc subscribing to the Agreement on Accord signed on 28 April in Moscow.

Opinions differed sharply. The bloc's leader, State Duma Deputy I. Grachev, stated that because of his participation in the Yabloko faction he could not support Z. Latypov's initiative. But he feels all right about the signing. In the voting, I. Grachev and also RiZ acting chairman, I. Sultanov, and the leader of the city party organization created on the basis of Russia's Choice, D. Galyautdinov, abstained.

As usual, the discussion and the outcome of the voting led the disputing parties to personal accusations.

And although in the corridors things did not reach the point of "physical disagreement," during the recess certain hotheads lapsed into unprintable language. In our opinion, the ideological separation of liberals and democrats within the RiZ bloc is proceeding painfully but predictably.

The position against signing the still unstudied text of the agreement was argued most consistently by the chairman of the Tatar division of the SDPR [Social Democratic Party of Russia], Deputy Chairman of Vakhitovskiy Rayon Soviet Yu. Rostovshikov, and the leader of the local organization of the DPR [Democratic Party of Russia], I. Konov?

In the end 11 members of the council of the RiZ bloc voted in favor of joining the Agreement on Accord. They were one vote short of having enough to adopt a decision.

Navigation Opens on Volga

PM0505121994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Report from roundup of ITAR-TASS reports: "Navigation Opened on Volga"]

[Text] The opening of navigation for 1994 has taken place in Nizhniy Novgorod.

After a band had played marches and welcoming speeches had been delivered the first diesel ship, the Dobrynya Nikitich, set off for Astrakhan with fleet veterans on board. Specialists predict that this year's navigation will be difficult: Inflation is growing and the number of those who want to sail along the Volga is declining. To make ends meet the sailors intend as before to rent out some of the ships as floating hotels.

Will this affect livestock raising? Most probably not. If only because the livestock population in Russia has been reduced by approximately 25 percent and in some places by even 30 percent.

This year there is no need to be worried about seed. There is plenty, and in some places there is even a surplus. This is largely explained by the high cost of seed—many farms and private farmers simply cannot afford them which, of course, will also entail a reduction in sown areas.

As a whole there is no problem with fuel and lubricants either, although in individual oblasts, for instance Novosibirsk Oblast, drivers are refueling direct from the tanker trucks. And that is impermissible.

It cannot be said that the farms and private farmers have money to carry out the spring field work. Although credits for April were issued in full, in the opinion of the Ministry of Agriculture they are blatantly inadequate. So the question of the issue of May credits is on the agenda.

Lower Volga Sowing Progress Reported

PM0505110394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Report by correspondent Vitaliy Cherkasov followed by commentary by Aleksandr Gavrilyuk under general heading: "As Ye Sow So Shall Ye Reap"]

[Text] Gorodishchenskiy Rayon, Volgograd Oblast—The sowing toil has reached the Lower Volga. Ivan Shabunin, head of the Volgograd Oblast administration, ordered that the peasants be paid all the state's debts for last year's grain back in early April. The countryside was provided with fuel and lubricants for the entire campaign.

At night on the field near the village of Novyy Rogachik, Gorodishchenskiy Rayon, the tractor drivers were harrowing the winter fallow.

"They are hurrying to lock in the moisture," explained Nikolay Telitchenko, deputy director of the "Luch" agro-industrial limited partnership. "Put you hope in god, but don't slip up yourself. That is why people are working day and night. We shall do the harrowing and start the sowing...."

That is the sowing technology. It was elaborated by scientists from the Volgograd agricultural institute and from the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The point of this program is to obtain the forecasted grain harvest in any weather conditions. Even if not a single drop of rain falls all summer, which in the Lower Volga region happens quite often.

That is why no one here ever pins any hope on the weather.

"The present harvest was conceived the year before last," Nikolay Telitchenko explains the essence of dry arable farming. "It was then that the entire winter crop area was left to bare fallow."

This year the "Luch" limited partnership obtained an average of 45 quintals of wheat [per hectare]. And that is on clay or at best on red soil. In addition on these arid steppes the grain that is grown is strong. In barter exchange between farms this grain is very advantageous: One tonne of elite wheat seed grain is equal to two tonnes of feed grain.

Sometimes this home-grown barter can provide three or five tonnes of feed grain.

That is how "Luch" survives. No one here is groaning, panicking, or intending to go on strike. There are no

stoppages, everyone is working. And that even with our ubiquitous nonpayments. [Cherkasov report ends]

Specialists' Opinion

Today the spring field work is at its height and in the opinion of Ivan Gridasov, chief of the Ministry of Agriculture plant growing administration, it is ahead of last year's schedule. Over 3 million hectares have already been sown to spring crops.

Unfortunately, the state of the winter crops is considerably worse. About 3 million hectares will have to be resown—it is a long time since that happened and it is connected primarily with the weather. In the fall they sowed without rain, into the dry soil, and in addition frost struck immediately. As a result 1 million hectares have already been resown and last year this figure was only 100,000 hectares. The saddest thing is that this affects primarily winter wheat and as a result there is a reduction in the gross harvest of this crop.

In the opinion of Ministry of Agriculture experts losses will be about 10 million tonnes. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that this year at least half the amount of fertilizers and plant protection agents will be applied to the soil. Moreover sown areas are being reduced by approximately 4.5 million hectares, primarily because of the lack of land in suburban regions. Of these hectares half are usually sown to grain crops. Cottages are now growing up in their place.

Izhevsk Plant's Successful Conversion to Civilian Output

PM0505105394 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by F. Simakov, identified by caption]

[Text] [Simakov over video of conversion output produced at Izhevsk's "Mekhanicheskiy Zavod"] The current, admittedly dire situation has not brought the gunsmiths at Izhevsk's "Mekhanicheskiy Zavod" Plant to their knees. On the contrary, it has made them act quickly and display a lot of initiative.

And so missiles and electronic guidance systems for missiles have disappeared, to be replaced by laser video recorders, "Kompanyon" computers, magnificent electrocardio-stimulators, and much else besides. For example, this intercity public pay telephone. The plant's designers have excelled themselves, developing highly original goods within an extremely short period, such as this pump-action gun, for example. Its versatility is simply enviable. This and other innovations caused a big stir at a recent exhibition in Nuremberg.

Incidentally, the exhibition of the plant's output is not confined to firearms. It also includes purely civilian goods produced with hi-tech methods and therefore in great demand.

Border Guards Review Putina-94 Operation in Far East

LD0605132594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1049 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] All the border violating ships which were revealed by the naval division of the North-Eastern frontier district in the course of the first stage of the operation Putina-94 were Russian ones, deputy chief of the division headquarters Sergey Sergeyev told INTERFAX.

The aim of the operation Putina-94 which was started on April 20 is to combat illegal fishery in the Far East.

As Sergeyev said, the frontier guards have inspected 22 ships, 12 of them were Russians, eight crafts belonged to Japan, two to North Korea. "The frontier guards exposed seven violating ships which were sailing under the Russian flag," noted Sergeyev. Penalties were imposed on five ships for violations in filling in their fishery journals and three of them for polluting of the sea.

As many as two ships, the Sakhalin floating base Konstitutsiya SSSR and the Primorsk transport ship Subaru, violated the customs rules. An investigation is to be continued on land.

In addition, the frontier guards were forced to chase one ship, the Nakhodka trawler Stal which disobeyed the order to stop. When the inspection group came aboard the trawler, it failed to find any violations. "It was just instinct on the part of the Stal's captain—if you are chased, then run away. He received a warning from the frontier guards," said Sergeyev.

In general as many as 20 Russian and four foreign ships were caught in the course of the Putina-94 operation, Commander of the Pacific Frontier District Major General Vitaliy Sedykh declared at a press conference devoted to the conclusion of the first stage of the operation and staged on Friday in Vladivostok.

According to Sedykh, as many as 700 ships were found in Russia's economic zone, including more than 200 foreign ships. The frontier guards have inspected more than 100 Russian and 20 foreign ships which appeared to be Japanese fishing boats. The captains of three fishing boats made violations in compiling permission cards for the fishery of sea products in the Russian economic zone and were deprived of them.

On April 22 a Japanese fishing boat Elyu-Maru-86 violated the rules near the Southern Kurils by not passing one of the checking points. A penalty of 15,385 dollars was imposed on the crew.

Ships assigned to the Pacific Fleet, fish protection bodies Primorrybvoda and Sakhrybvoda, employees of the Federal Counterintelligence Service and of the Far Eastern Customs Department participated in the operation along with the frontier guards of the Pacific frontier district.

Tracking devices to monitor the situation in this region were used in this operation.

International Affairs

U.S. National Security Council Official on Visit

LD0505162894 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] We have entered a new, more positive period in our cooperation. This was a statement made by Nicholas Burns, the U.S. National Security Council's senior director, at his meeting with Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch on 5 May. The guest is leading his country's representative economic delegation that has been visiting Ukraine for several days now.

In the course of the conversation, Ivan Plyushch described the situation that had formed in Ukraine. The arrival of this delegation in our country, in his view, is another step taken along the path toward further building mutually beneficial ties of partnership with the United States of America. The United States can play an important part in promoting the settlement of the issues that Ukraine is now faced with, said Ivan Plyushch.

I know, Nicholas Burns replied, that President Bill Clinton believes America and Ukraine have entered a new, more positive period in bilateral relations. Whereas we used to pay more attention to eliminating the nuclear weapons deployed in Ukraine, we are now making the emphasis on larger-scale economic relations. A few months ago, our president made a resolute decision that we should develop a new and productive relationship with Ukraine in the economic sphere. The U.S. President promises that this summer will see the beginning of an U.S.-Ukrainian Enterprise Fund which is to lend money to private enterprises in Ukraine. Your state is now our fourth largest world partner in terms of the size of our economic assistance, which once again emphasizes that Ukraine is a country of great importance to the United States, Nicholas Burns, U.S. National Security Council senior director, said.

Ukraine, U.S. Discuss Economic Aid Proposals

LD0505130494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1028 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] At the talks conducted in Kiev between the Ukrainian Government and an economic delegation from the U.S., Ukraine suggested that part of the $350 million allocated by the U.S. should be used as security for receiving credit from a major foreign bank. As Ukraine's Economics Minister, Roman Shpek, said during the talks, Kiev is not prepared to "use $350 million in the near future."

The leadership of Ukraine's Cabinet criticized Washington for having advanced too many conditions for granting concrete economic aid. According to Deputy Premier Valentin Landik, under American proposals the granting of $95 million to support private enterprise will become possible only if leasing as a means of privatizing property is given up.

According to American experts, leasing may hinder the "voucher privatization," which they view as the most progressive method of reforming property.

Landik urged members of the U.S. delegation to refrain from advancing conditions for the granting of aid, and to stop their calls for "starting reforms."

As he said, the lowering of inflation to 5.7 pct and the start of privatization indicate that reforms in Ukraine have already begun, and that concrete support for them is necessary.

During the talks American negotiators also insisted that Ukraine should introduce a market rate for its karbovanets in relation to hard currencies. Landik for his part declared that the state will continue to regulate the karbovanets rate till the crisis is overcome.

The two delegations are led by the Ukrainian Deputy Premier, Valentin Landik, and by Nicholas Burns, a senior official from the U.S. National Security Council.

U.S. Official: New Stage of U.S.-Ukrainian Cooperation

LD0505214294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2006 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 5 May TASS—We have entered another, more positive stage of our cooperation, according to Nicholas Burns, senior director of the U.S. National Security Council and an adviser to President Bill Clinton.

Burns heads a U.S. economic delegation, which arrived in Kiev a few days ago for talks with Ukrainian officials on how to apply $350 million in aid.

On Thursday, Burns met Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Ivan Plyushch. The speaker informed the American guest about the current situation in the former Soviet Republic. He described the visit by such a representative delegation as another step towards further development of mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries. The United States can contribute considerably to solution of problems currently facing Ukraine, Plyushch stressed.

Burns said the present visit had been mostly focused on exchange of opinions about economic cooperation between the United States and Ukraine. This issue was tackled during meetings with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and government ministers.

According to the U.S. official, President Clinton believes the two countries entered a new stage of bilateral relations. The previous stage concentrated on dismantling of Ukraine's nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union. At present, the emphasis is laid on closer and more extensive economic ties. "To the United States, Ukraine is seen as one of the most important countries in Europe," Burns said.

He insisted the former Soviet republic speed up economic reform if it wanted more aid in future. "The Ukrainian Government and parliament and the society at large want to achieve economic reform. But we believe the progress

has Gorbachev to go further. Much greater progress has to be made," Burns told a news conference.

The U.S. delegation head called on ministers to move more quickly in implementing an ambitious privatization programme and creating a better climate for trade.

"The United States would like to lead an international effort to provide help to Ukraine with its economic reform programme," he pointed out. The combined sum pledged by the U.S. to the newly-independent state puts Ukraine behind only Israel, Egypt, and Russia in terms of U.S. foreign aid.

Among other projects, the United States will print privatization certificates to be issued to all Ukrainian citizens in July and set up an enterprise fund to give loans to small businesses.

Kravchuk Meets EC Commissioner, Presses for Agreements

LD0505190594 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Today, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk received Sir Leon Brittan, vice president of the European Union Commission and commissar for external economic affairs of the European Commissions, who is on a visit to our country at the invitation of the foreign affairs minister to familiarize himself with the situation in Ukraine and to find out about the course of reforms. A conversation took place in the course of which a wide variety of issues relating to cooperation between Ukraine and the EEC was raised. Ukraine attaches significant importance to the development of cooperation with the European Union, said President Kravchuk. We seek to have good relations with every country on the continent.

I am happy that work on preparation for the signing of an agreement between Ukraine and the EEC on partnership and cooperation is over. This cooperation will be on the basis of temporary accords.

President Kravchuk expressed the wish that the agreement should be signed as early as the beginning of June. This, he said, is necessitated by our economic and political problems.

EU Announces Aid Package To Help Close Chernobyl

LD0505195994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The European Union [EU] agrees to provide financial assistance to build two new reactors in Ukraine, on one condition, however: that all of the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station's generating sets are closed down. This was a statement made at a news conference in Strasbourg, held by five of the European Parliament's most influential party groupings that united in a campaign for the Chernobyl nuclear power station to close down. It was announced that 100 million ECU [European currency unit] would be allocated by the EURATOM [European Atomic Energy Community] organization. Some of the money will be provided from the TACIS [Technical Aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States] program and by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Members of the European Parliament stressed that the G-7 member states would make a considerable contribution.

G-7 Experts Says Chernobyl Should be Closed Down

LD0505163194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksandr Litvinov for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 5 May TASS—Ukraine should have made great contribution to environmental security in Europe, if it closed down the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Such was the position which visiting representatives of the G-7 countries expressed at a meeting with Yuriy Kostenko, Ukrainian minister for environmental protection, on Thursday [5 May].

If the Chernobyl nuclear power plant keeps on functioning, it will thus pose a permanent threat not only to Ukraine, but also to other countries of the world, they emphasized.

According to Kostenko, his ministry has always been the only state body to consistently demand that the Chernobyl nuclear power plant be closed down as soon as possible.

The measures, which are being taken now to reinforce the plant's security, will hardly suffice to prevent radioactive pollution of the area in case of another accident, he said.

Representatives of the so-called "pro-nuclear" lobby, who exercise much influence at all levels of power throughout the Commonwealth of Independent States, put up a most fierce resistance, he explained. They insist on a constant build-up in nuclear capacities, gambling on the fact that Ukraine has now to face the problem of insufficient power supplies.

National Affairs

Crimean Government Building Evacuated Due to Bomb Threat

LD0505105194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1018 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Leb Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol 5 May TASS—The government of the Crimea received a bomb threat on Thursday [5 May] and the staff have been urgently evacuated from the building.

An unknown person called the policeman on duty at the government offices in the morning and said the building had been mined.

All employees were immediately evacuated and the building is being searched by special police units.

No Bomb Found

LD0505192594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1831 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchikov for TASS]

[Text] Simferopol 5 May TASS—No mine has been found in the building of the Crimean local government.

By 0200 on Thursday [5 May] afternoon, field engineers of the Black Sea Fleet's 126th Coastal Guard Division completed inspection of the building but failed to detect the reported explosive device.

The inspection was prompted by a telephone call this morning. An unidentified person said a mine had been planted in the government building, after which a government session was broken off and everybody was evacuated from the building.

Crimean Leader Says Tatars Side With Kiev

AU0505121094 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 30 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Mustafa Dzhemilev, chairman of the Crimean Tatar Majlis, by HOLOS UKRAYINY correspondent Natalya Filipchuk in Kiev; place and date not given: "It Is Not Alms That We Need, but Recognition"]

[Text] President L. Kravchuk's edict "On Measures for Commemorating the Victims of Deportation From the Crimea" was, at first glance, timed for a specific date. On 18 May, 50 years ago, the "resettlement" of Crimean Tatars, as well as of Armenians, Bulgarians, and Greeks, started.... However, some politicians also saw in the edict official Kiev's political reaction to recent events in the Crimea. In particular, for the first time, in an important official document, the Crimean Tatar Majlis figured as a plenipotentiary representative body. Its chairman Mustafa Dzhemilev was appointed as deputy chairman of the Organizing Committee for Preparing and Holding the Remembrance Program. Mustafa aga [Tatar polite form of address] arrived in Kiev to take part in the first meeting of the committee.

[Dzhemilev] I think that, indeed, the edict was to a certain extent a response to the recent actions by Crimean Republic's President Meshkov, who openly violates the constitutions of Ukraine and of the Crimea, as well as accords between the Crimean administration and the Ukrainian leadership. We are generally surprised that Kiev has been waiting for such a long time and, when it does respond to Meshkov's illegal edicts, it is on paper only. I understand Kiev's striving to avoid confrontation. However, if one proceeds along the road of compliance, this may, in the long run, lead to such a conflict that, by comparison, the troubles, which might result from decisive actions on the part of the Ukrainian leadership, will look like minor things.

[Filipchuk] In accordance with your forecasts, will such uncertain relations between Kiev and Simferopol prevail for a long time?

[Dzhemilev] The situation in the Crimea largely depends upon its administration. It is clear that Meshkov feels confident, since specific Russian statesmen, who are interested in maintaining instability on the peninsula, are backing him in pursuance of their own interests, in particular with regard to the Black Sea Fleet. Kiev's indecisiveness only inspires chauvinists both in the Crimea and in Russia. I hope that, eventually, the silence of the Ukrainian leadership will end.

A different development of events is also possible: If Meshkov's Moscow coaches suggest that he pursue a different and more cautious policy and if they promise that there will be no territorial claims upon Ukraine.

[Filipchuk] How will the events develop if the Crimean administration gets the Crimean Tatars to their side?

[Dzhemilev] As things stand at present, this is not realistic. Even the fact that 14 of our representatives were elected to the parliament does not mean that we found understanding; this is the result of our acts of civil disobedience. Meshkov himself, who was actually against ethnic quotas in the parliament, stated in the parliament the next day after the elections that he did not recognize the Crimean Tatar Majlis and that Bagrov's parliament had made many stupid things (he meant, in particular, the quotas), and called upon the new parliament to "resolve" those problems.

A few days ago, Meshkov's mediator spoke to us—wouldn't we agree to meet with the president at his invitation. If President Meshkov wants to meet with us as with private persons, because he does not recognize the Majlis' powers, then does it really make sense?

Incidentally, we have already been offered rewards for supporting a specific candidate for the post of chairman of the Crimean parliament. However, it is not alms that we need, but full recognition of the rights of the Crimean Tatars.

[Filipchuk] Do official Russian representatives seek contacts with you?

[Dzhemilev] There recently was a proposal from [deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers Sergey] Shakhray to meet with representatives of the Majlis. Readiness was even expressed to come to the Crimea, if representatives of the Majlis are unable to go to Moscow. Our doors are open to anybody. However, before we hold negotiations with official figures of foreign states, especially under today's conditions, we want to coordinate this with the leadership of our state.

Russia does really seek contacts with us, but for what purpose? When, in 1991, they wanted to officially recognize us and even showed us a Russian Supreme Council's draft decree to that effect, there was just one "request" for the Crimean Tatars: To agree to the cancellation of the 1954 decree on the transfer of the Crimea to Ukraine's jurisdiction. As regards Crimean Tatars, very many illegal acts against them have been perpetrated throughout their history, but it would be best to start with 1783: Russia's

unlawful annexation of the Crimea. That was the end of our "friendship." Nobody mentioned recognition any more after that.

However, the trouble is that Ukraine delays official recognition of the Majlis in precisely the same way, fearing the reaction on the part of the Crimea and Russia. At the same time, we in the Crimea feel ourselves more Ukrainian than Ukrainians themselves.

[Filipchuk] Incidentally, neither representatives of Rukh, nor of Ukraine's democratic parties have been elected to the Crimean parliament. Do they, today, see their allies in you?

[Dzemilev] Our representatives will primarily defend the interests of Crimean Tatars, and these interests largely coincide with the interests of pro-Ukrainian parties. We see our self-determination as the revival of our national territorial autonomy within Ukraine and are categorically against a revision of borders. We are grateful to Ukraine for agreeing to finance the return of deported peoples to their historical land. Although there also are problems here: The allocated funds first get to the administration of the republic and not to the Crimean Tatars. The administration is the least interested party here. Our compatriots from Uzbekistan, for example, cannot sell their houses in order to return to the Crimea, because the legislation of that state is an obstacle. Obviously, Ukraine might somehow, on a bilateral basis, coordinate this issue. It would also be logical if Russia also allocated certain funds for the return of deported people, as it considers itself to be a successor to the USSR.

The correspondent's note. On 18 May, Ukraine and the Crimean Tatars will commemorate victims of the deportation. It is a just and timely measure. However, the Crimean Tatars hope that this will not limit the care about deported people. Over the first quarter of 1994, just 36 billion [monetary unit not specified] out of the 148 billion set aside for the return of deported people to the Crimea was received; in the second quarter—just 35 billion out of 124 billion. Out of the 40 billion allocated for social needs of the victims, only 5 billion was received. A few days ago, Crimean Tatars occupied by force the building of the former mosque—presently used for storing the Black Sea Fleet archives. They virtually forced Admiral Baltin to make a written obligation to vacate the building by 15 May. So that on 18 May, a rally-requiem could be held in the mosque....

Acting Premier Agrees to Meet Crimean President 7 May

LD0505151594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 5 May (ITAR-TASS)—"Relations between Ukraine and Crimea should be built on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. And this will be the main topic of my meeting with President Yuriy Meshkov in Simferopol 7 May," Ukraine's Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyagilskyy told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

Yesterday's conversation behind closed doors with Crimea's Vice President Yevgeniy Saburov served as a kind of "impetus" for the trip. Yefim Zvyagilskyy was satisfied with its outcome. He was heartened by the fact that in response to the question: "Where do Crimea's loyalties lie?" Yevgeniy Saburov said unequivocally: "With Ukraine." "It was only after this that I decided to meet the president of Crimea," Yefim Zvyagilskyy stressed.

To Meet Crimea's President Meshkov

LD0505164294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1516 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 5 May TASS—"Relations between Ukraine and Crimea should be built on an equal and mutually beneficial basis. This will be the main topic of my meeting with President Yuriy Meshkov, which is due to be held in Simferopol on 7 May," Ukrainian Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy told TASS on Thursday [5 May].

The proposed meeting is prompted by yesterday's closed-door talks between Zvyahilskyy and Crimea's Deputy Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov. The Ukrainian acting prime minister was pleased that when asked with whom the peninsula was siding, Saburov answered definitely: "with Ukraine."

"Only after this, I made up my mind to meet the Crimean president," Zvyahilskyy stressed.

Acting PM Zvyahilskyy Interviewed

LD0605000494 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1845 GMT 5 May 94

[News conference by Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahkilskyy at UNIAN in Kiev on 5 May]

[Text] Kiev—At a news conference at UNIAN on 5 May, Acting Prime Minister Yefim Zvyahilskyy answered questions from that news agency's journalists and representatives of other mass media.

[UNIAN] With your support, the approved 1994 budget does not contain a deficit. The National Bank of Ukraine estimates that the deficit in the first quarter of this year came to over eight trillion [karbovantsi] against the background of the whole of last year's deficit of 9.5 trillion. Are you still in favor of the idea of a budget without a deficit? If not, how soon can we expect emission [emisiya] as a source of deficit elimination and of what size?

[Zvyahilskyy] To have a budget without a deficit is an aspiration of every state. I backed the no-deficit budget in the first quarter in order to see whether it would be possible to lose money gradually. Given the complex economic situation, a way out is strict control over the

budget's revenue and expenditure. The policy of a no-deficit budget, in my view, is justifiable. However, we noted in the Law on the Budget that we would make corrections as the result of each quarter. This is what we are doing. I think that an analysis of the first quarter's results will be ready by 20 May and will be submitted for consideration by the Supreme Council on 20-25 May. I am convinced there will be no emission in the near future.

[UNIAN] Subduing hyperinflation is considered to be your greatest achievement. Is not a 38 percent slump in production in the first quarter too high a price to pay for this?

[Zvyahilskyy] That depends on how you look at the production slump. From the standpoint of the generation of electricity on Ukraine, for instance, the slump in that sphere's production is 18 percent.

I cannot trust statistics. There is an instruction and we are in the process of making an in-depth analysis. Considering the list of other items, there is a 1- to 3-percent increase in certain articles. It can also be said today that our steel workers are gradually raising the volume of production too, which could be accounted for by the fact that many enterprises have been demanding larger quotas and licences on top of the state contract or state order, to reequip themselves technologically, using proceeds from the goods sold. Analyzing the data on the rate of production growth in metallurgy in March compared with February 1994, the figures are follows: The extraction of iron ore rose by 3.8 percent, the production of cast iron by half a percent, steel by six percent and steel pipe by 2.3 percent. True, though: Ready rolled metal was down 2.8 percent. You are right in saying that there is a production decline in machine building, etc. However, the production of foodstuffs was also up.

[UNIAN correspondent] Ukraine's legislation guarantees the repatriation of profit for foreign investors. In practice, however, where can investors who have set up production in Ukraine and are earning karbovantsi, repatriate their income? When will the work of the currency exchange resume?

[Zvyahilskyy] I have instructed our professionals to work out that issue and find ways of settling it. There are many options, but what is most important now is to find one acceptable and beneficial both for Ukraine and the investors themselves. We are working on this problem and I think it will be resolved in the very near future.

I would like to emphasize that the work of the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange [UICE] was only halted rather than having been closed down. But should there be an attempt to resume the activity of the UICE forcibly, I shall resign. I believe that the work of the currency exchange at the transitional period of crisis is only good for a small number of individuals, but detrimental to millions of ordinary people.

[UNIAN] Of what will financial and credit support for enterprises, to be provided according to the resolution "On Urgent Measures To Overcome the Payments Crisis and Normalize the Work of Enterprises" signed by you on 4 May, consist?

[Zvyahilskyy] The government will only be granting financial and credit support to the enterprises that produce competitive goods and have a sales market (Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, in Yefim Zvyahilskyy's words, has already gathered the information required from ministries and departments, in order to identify those enterprises), whereas the enterprises that do have a sales market will only be able to receive money having a realistic clear-up and production realignment program.

[UNIAN] Has the concept of a future monetary reform been developed? What will it be like, a parallel or confiscatory one?

[Zvyahilskyy] A new banknote factory has been commissioned in Ukraine. The money is very good. We can print an unlimited amount of it and also some for other countries. As for the reform, a working group has been set up and there will by all means be the introduction of the hryvnya. The issue of banning the circulation of foreign currency in Ukraine, which does not apply to the Ukrainian karbovanets, is also under consideration. This move will not be to everyone's liking but it would be justifiable. This is one of the elements of hryvnya introduction.

[UNIAN] You said on the eve of the elections to the Supreme Council: "The government officials that stood and failed to get elected, have to resign from civil service". Does it mean now that over twenty highly qualified bureaucrats have to go?

[Zvyahilskyy] This is a matter of personal conscience and depends on the officials themselves. When Labor Minister Mykhaylo Kaskevych, a professional I greatly respect, came and wrote a letter of resignation, I could do nothing but endorse it. Others, however, have not yet written anything... Although I have told Economy Minister Roman Shpek about a few of his deputies who failed to reach parliament, no pressure can be applied to those people. This, I repeat, is a matter of their conscience.

[UNIAN] In connection with various reports of your participation—and that of your relatives—in entrepreneurial structures, are you and your relatives now prepared to fill in a declaration of incomes? What is in your way?

[Zvyahilskyy] I filled in such a declaration when I decided to stand for a member of the new parliament. As Yefim Zvyahilskyy, I have taken part in no commercial structure. Nor am I taking part in them. I shall fill in the declaration, when need be. The participation of the Zasyadko mine in Donetsk, where I was director, in the institution of the first Ukrainian international bank, cannot be regarded as personal commercial activity.

[UNIAN] There is an ever-increasing amount of talk about wider-ranging regional economic independence. Where do you think is the boundary the regions cannot be allowed to

overstep? What are the main differences on the development of the Crimean Peninsula you and Crimean Vice Prime Minister Yevgeniy Saburov have?

[Zvyahilskyy] On my initiative, I met Yevgeniy Saburov on 4 May. First of all, I asked Saburov whether he could see Crimea within Ukraine. The vice prime minister said: "So, and only so." Afterwards, there began negotiations, with the agriculture, economy, and external economic relations ministers taking part in them. In the course of the conversation, I voiced the opinion that Crimean presidential decrees in many respects contradicted the Constitution of Ukraine and that working in this manner was, of course, no longer possible. The Crimean side, in its turn, expressed understanding that one could have done without decrees in settling many issues.

Yevgeniy Saburov also acknowledged the reasonability of arguments by the chairman of the board of the National Bank [NBU], Viktor Yushchenko. I also emphasized: "A state can only have one national bank." The only thing that I guaranteed for the Crimeans, was transferring financial aid from any state by a purposive allocation to Crimea without delay: The money that will be received by the NBU, will in an hour's time be transferred to Crimea down to the cent." We reached understanding that actions by the Crimean Government should not affect the interests of Ukraine. We agreed on a meeting between Ukraine's Government delegation and the Crimean president on 7 May. It is not worthwhile to stage confrontation. It is better to lend assistance to Crimea in resolving its problems. My opinion is that the decision only to provide Ukrainian language textbooks for Crimean schools is ill-considered.

[UNIAN] What is your attitude towards the Black Sea Fleet issue?

[Zvyahilskyy] The government is preparing specific proposals on this issue. This problem cannot be left unresolved, which is why all options are being made ready, including the possibility of rent. A preliminary accord has been reached on a meeting in the very near future with the head of Russia's government, Viktor Chernomyrdin, to work out all contentious issues on the Black Sea Fleet.

Yefim Zvyahilskyy then answered questions from representatives of other mass media. Answering the question whether Ukraine would accept IMF conditions for the receipt of credits, Yefim Zvyahilskyy said he would not agree to the condition of cancelling the fixed currency exchange rate. "We, by all means, shall come to this but it will not happen in 1994. The thing is that once we free the rate, we shall have all prices for food, housing, gas, and electricity rising several-fold. We then will have to raise wages and pensions without, however, having the money for this in the budget. This is exactly why this road cannot be taken or the economy will crumble."

As for the question on the attitude towards dividing powers between the president and the prime minister and his personal preferences for any presidential candidate, Yefim Zvyahilskyy declined to answer. "I am an industrialist and a businessman. I am not aware of politics although, of course, I know what is what in it." He also spoke in favor of a professional parliament and pointed out that the Cabinet of Ministers would be formed. As for his personal future, he said he cold not envisage any tragedy for himself. "I shall be a rank and file people's deputy," he said. "However, if the president deems it necessary for me to remain in the Cabinet of Ministers, I shall remain," Yefim Zvyahilskyy told the UNIAN correspondent.

Acting Premier Says Economic Situation Stabilizing

LD0505160094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1415 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev, 5 May—"There is no crisis in Ukraine. There is a slump in production. Those who talk of crisis are simply following fashion," Ukraine's acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said at a news conference today. He backed up his viewpoint with facts. Inflation, which last year took the catastrophic form of hyperinflation reaching 91 percent in December, was 5.7 percent in March of this year. Prices for basic foodstuffs are almost static. The gradual reduction of bank credit interest rates has begun. The decision that hard currency must be sold at a regulated exchange rate has made it possible for a proportion of subsidies and allowances which exporters received from the state to be recovered and for inflation on the domestic market to be curbed.

Yukhym Zvyahilskyy said that the government has moved away from general discussions about the need to return all hard currency earned from exports from Ukraine to specific measures. Checks have been carried out to ascertain whether the hard currency receipts of all exporters have been declared fully and promptly. A control system "customs-bank" has been devised and is being introduced. This gives a real picture of hard currency from exports coming into Ukraine literally every day.

And we are doing this at accelerated rates, since Ukraine in January alone failed to receive more than $14 million, about 10 billion Russian rubles, and also large sums of other currencies, the acting Prime Minister stressed. But today we know by name everyone who failed to return currency on time, and we shall take the toughest measures against them.

Measures are being taken to ensure complete and punctual payment of taxes into the budget. In January to April alone, evaded taxes were recovered and fines were imposed in the amount of 1.441 trillion karbovantsi. This work is continuing. In this way, one of the reasons for the delay in remittance of pay to the budget-financed organizations and in financing of social programs is being eliminated in particular.

A fundamentally new mechanism of settling accounts with the producers of agricultural output has make it possible, without resorting to emission of money, to supply agriculture with fuel and lubricants, seed, and fertilizer at acceptable prices. This in turn has made it possible to carry out the spring field work without substantial disruption and lay the foundations of the future harvest.

Yukhym Zvyahilskyy considers that these "measures are ensuring control of the economic situation not by means of vulgar administrative state interference in everything, but by means of economic levers." Now the opportunity has appeared to tackle nonpayments, one of the major problems to date. The main essence of these measures consists in lowering enterprises' tax burden, preparing for the transition to tax on profits and not on incomes, targeting support for those who produce output for which there is a market, liberalizing exports and the protection of home producers, and also lowering the bank rates.

Yukhym Zvyahilskyy announced one other piece of news: The decision has been made to increase the regulated rate of the karbovanets to 13,100 karbovantsi to one U.S. dollar.

Official Releases Data Regarding Drop in Production, Wages

WS0505115494 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 29 Apr 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Valeriy Popovkin, chief of the department dealing with shaping socioeconomic strategy: "Ukrainian Economy: Are All Resources Exhausted"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During the first quarter of 1994, in comparison with the same period last year, the national income was reduced by 36 percent, the industrial output by more than 38 percent (machine building industry by 47 percent; chemical industry by 45 percent; light industry by 100 percent: ready made garments by 60 percent, and shoes by 66 percent).

The general production of consumer goods fell by some 40 percent, while nonfoodstuff goods by 45 percent.

Production of essential products of the black metallurgy shrunk by 30-70 percent. Let us not forget that over 1993 it fell by 20-40 percent. We can see how the entire sector—producing essential products for the machine building industry—that is the basis for the technological progress is dying. The development of transport is unthinkable without metal products.

Cuts in production in the fuel-energetic sector is continuing. Coal extraction fell by 16 percent, production in the oil processing industry—by 45-60 percent. The production of electrical energy decreased by 17 percent.

In our opinion, skyrocketing prices were and continue to be the key reason for this critical situation. They limit the demand and opportunities of trading in products. Despite the catastrophic reduction in production, the warehouses and trading facilities continue to amass huge amounts of unsold products. For example, this especially concerns the production of furniture and tiles, 70 percent of which are not in demand. Given the reduction in the volume of crediting within the framework of the governmental anti-inflation program, mutual debts of enterprises considerably increased. Only over January-February 1994, the general volume of debts between enterprises and organizations of Ukraine increased by one third and exceeded 300 trillion karbovanetses. The mutual nonpayments of debts increased by 2.6 times. A specific proportion of loss making enterprises increased from 16 to 24 percent.

Despite the stable prices on imported energy resources, the increase in wholesale prices in industry (by 54 percent since the beginning of the year), prices for construction and installation work (in 2.3 times by the fourth quarter of 1993), and retail prices is continuing. The emission of money is in full swing.

The crisis in the investment sector is deepening. The production of the most important types of building materials fell to 40-70 percent, capital investments and costs of construction and installation work was reduced by 37-38 percent, and the volume of contractor work—by almost a half.

The Ukrainian transportation system is experiencing a total crisis. Due to a reduction in production and extremely high transportation tariffs, cargo shipments by vehicles was reduced by 55 percent and by railroads—by 65 percent.

In comparison with the first quarter of 1993, the volume of retail turnover fell almost twice. Figures representing cuts in average wages in the state sector of the national economy look extremely absurd. Notably, the highest wage was registered in the banking and social insurance sector—it exceeded the average wage three times and was 3.2-times higher than the wage of a researcher. People, who produce material and spiritual values, have been totally excluded from priority compensations. Motives for conscientious work have been wrecked. However, very soon we will not have anything that could be redistributed.

The situation demands the adoption of extraordinary measures, first and foremost, regarding a decrease in prices to liberalize the consumers' demand, the lessening of the role of the state in the regulation of prices for essential goods to raise work motivation, correct and stabilize the national currency rate, and liberalize the taxation policy.

Apparently, the government is convinced that both the national resources and people's patience are inexhaustible.

Agricultural Minister: Sector Will Be Stable in 2-3 Years

WS0505141394 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Yuriy Mykhaylovich Karasyk, Ukraine's minister of agriculture and food, by Viktor Kozoris; place and date not given: "Professionalism Must Unite Us"]

[Text] Minister of Agriculture and Food Yuriy Mykhaylovich Karasyk became the first Supreme Council People's

Deputy from the Cherkassk Oblast. He balloted for the legislature seat in the Cherkassk constituency No. 427 in which the runoff was held on 3 April. When the results of all the Ukrainian runoffs were known, our reporter met with People's Deputy Yuriy Mykhaylovich Karasyk.

[Kozoris] Yuriy Mykhaylovich, I prepared a traditional question for you: With what are you going to begin your deputy's activities?

[Karasyk] I have already met with some deputies-agrarians. We are drafting a package of documents which will foster the work of the agricultural sector. First of all, these are documents on taxation because a value-added tax is a regular element in the processes of production, processing, and realization of agricultural products. In fact, taxation in the agricultural sector should encourage neither production, nor the budget, but the producer and the consumer. Experience shows that it should be flexible, and dependent on volumes of production and sales of products. However, our taxation is stable, agricultural products are not in demand (because people cannot buy them), and this triggers a drop in production.

The second block of issues is as follows. People's Deputy Viktor Martynovych Kalnyk, deputy minister of economy, and I are drafting a price formulating mechanism. It is closely connected with taxation. The third package regards our credit policy. I can say that a single document on taxation, crediting, and price formation is being drafted. This package also includes proposals on the banking sector, first and foremost, on the setting up of a land bank which will service enterprises and persons representing all forms of ownership in the production sector.

Now about the work in the new legislature. We know how many socialists and Rukh members it has. I can only pin hopes on that—irrespective of what parties and movements are represented in the Supreme Council—their representatives will be sane enough to unite their efforts on economic issues. Professionalism must unite us.

[Kozoris] The new legislature will be professional. Will you drop your ministerial post or unite your ministerial and legislative work?

[Karasyk] It is up to the Supreme Council. A new government will also be formed in line with the Supreme Council's decisions. If I suit the governmental team as minister of agriculture and food, then I will consult my voters in what post I will be of more use both to them and to the state.

[Kozoris] Many newly elected deputies said during the election campaigns that they will come to the legislature with their teams. Have you your own team in the Supreme Council?

[Karasyk] Our team will be the most numerous among the ministries in the new legislature. Five newly elected deputies come from the central state bodies: My three deputy ministers, the head of the concern "Ukragrotekhservis," and myself. Therefore, if you ask about a team, we have it. For example, Oleksandr Borovyk, chairman of the All-Ukrainian Council of Kolkhozes [KSP], KSP Chairman from Kiev Danilenko, and a range of other leaders of agricultural enterprises. In my opinion, we have the proper agrarian team.

[Kozoris] Is newly elected People's Deputy Oleksandr Tkachenko, former Ukrainian minister of agriculture, also a member of your team?

[Karasyk] In my opinion, Tkachenko suits our team professionally. We could have different political standpoints, however, from the point of view of professionalism, he should be a member of the agrarian team.

[Kozoris] Why did I ask you this question? Currently, some politicians issue statements regarding the existence of at least two groups of agrarians—Karasyk's and Tkachenko's—in the legislature.

[Karasyk] This will be our greatest problem. If agrarians begin setting up separate groups, this will cause a deadlock. Then we should lay down the office not to make people laugh. Given the current situation, we should drop our ambitions and assess objectively the life, and political and economic developments. Eventually, legislative deputies should work and not rally.

[Kozoris] Yuriy Mykhaylovich, you are an expert of, let us simply put it, the old Supreme Council. It also did not suffer from a lack of kolkhoz chairmen and experienced agrarians. Why did their activity not have a positive effect on our agricultural sector?

[Karasyk] Experience shows that the Supreme Council only dealt with adopting laws, the executive bodies did not live up to our expectations, and we missed the mechanism of the implementation of laws. I believe that the laws should be adopted together with a mechanism for their implementation, and they should be economically grounded to avoid the adoption of populist laws. It is better to tell people the truth, however, this truth should make people believe in the necessity of adopting corresponding laws. I do not blame the old Supreme Council, because, to blame, one should first try to work there. We aimed to become Supreme Council deputies to work.

[Kozoris] When can we expect real changes in the Ukrainian agrarian sector?

[Karasyk] I believe that in two or three years, the situation in the agrarian sector will become stable.

Belarus

Protocol on Russian Troop Withdrawal Signed With Lithuania

WS0505144694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1330 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] According to information received by BELAPAN from the Belarusian Defense Ministry press center, the protocol "On Procedures for Exchange of Information Between the Service of Military Relations of the Belarusian Armed Forces Rear and the Inspectorate for Military and Dangerous Shipments at the Civilian Protection Department of the Lithuanian Defense Ministry" has been signed in Vilnius. The document is intended to resolve many problems caused by the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany across the territories of Belarus and Lithuania. On behalf of Belarus, the protocol was signed by Colonel Mikalay Nyavolka, the government's plenipotentiary and chief of the Service of Military Relations in the Belarusian Armed Forces Rear.

Supreme Soviet Chairman, Premier Begin Visit to Moldova

WS0505115594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1000 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] According to our special correspondent in Chisinau, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb and Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich have today begun a visit to Moldova. The Belarusian parliament speaker and the Cabinet of Ministers chairman went to Moldova at the invitation of that country's leaders. Strengthening and developing economic and cultural ties between the two republics is the main goal of the visit to Chisinau by Mechyslaw Hryb and Vyacheslaw Kebich.

In the morning, the delegation met with Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, signed documents on bilateral cooperation, and held a news conference with journalists. At the news conference, the Belarusian and Moldovan leaders emphasized that such cooperation is in the interests of both states and people. The visit by Mechyslaw Hryb and Vyacheslaw Kebich will last two days.

Defense Minister Views CIS Security System, Monetary Union

WS0505141794 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 29 Apr 94 p 2

[Interview with Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kazlowski by Yuriy Bekhterev; place and date not given: "Defense Is More Reliable With the Ruble"]

[Text] [Bekhterev] Pavel Pavlovich, you participated in the Moscow CIS leaders summit which discussed the improvement of the collective security system. This aspect of the meeting, however, has been kept in the background. Neither Russian nor Belarusian papers have provided any details on the negotiations and agreements signed at the summit. Is this a military secret?

[Kazlowski] Not everything is secret. The agreements, as far as I know, are not secret, and they will be made public. Journalists are simply more interested in economic, social, or national issues than in military cooperation which has recently become unfashionable. This is, as the saying goes, a matter of taste however.

Two packages of military issues have been discussed at the Moscow meeting. The first one concerns measures for stabilizing the situation on the Tajikistani-Afghan border and timetables, the number, and the tasks of the peacekeeping forces in the Republic of Tajikistan.

However, since Belarus had not signed an agreement on sending peacekeeping contingents, we did not participate in the debate on these issues.

Also signed at the meeting were a resolution on the Council of CIS States Defense Ministers and an agreement on cooperation in mobilizing the economies of CIS countries.

Documents from the second package were also aimed at strengthening the CIS collective security system.

These were draft declarations of members of the Treaty on Collective Security, draft regulations regarding procedures of the Collective Security Council, draft documents regulating activities of the council's secretariat, and draft agreement on its location.

The defense ministers initialed the drafts, but due to the fact that the agenda of the meeting of state and government leaders was very tight, documents from "the second military package" were not included in it. Perhaps they will be discussed at another meeting of state leaders, which is supposed to be held in early September.

Even though economic issues dominated the Moscow summit and they virtually drove back military aspects, I do not see anything dangerous in this. It is important today to stabilize the situation in industry and the agricultural sector. If this is accomplished, defense problems will be resolved more successfully.

[Bekhterev] Nevertheless, relations between national armies should also develop dynamically. Is it possible that this process will be slowed down, because the most important documents were not signed?

[Kazlowski] Regardless of specific results of the meeting—whether specific documents were signed or not—the work aimed at improving cooperation and integration between national armies is continuing. First of all, the pace of this work is currently being determined by such a strictly civil process as the unification of Belarusian and Russian monetary systems. If this process, as the saying goes, proceeds, it will also be much easier for servicemen to develop relations in their area. We also lose a lot due to the disruption of economic ties.

It should be enough to say that 80 percent of all Defense Ministry expenditures goes to Russia. This amounts to billions and billions of rubles.

This figure is astronomically high not because we waste this money. We purchase only essential equipment without which our Army would no longer be an army. The problem is that Russian enterprises charge us three times as much as they do at Russia's internal market. If there is a common ruble and economic zone, it will be easier for us to supply the Army, train personnel, and earn experience....

[Bekhterev] Yet, Pavel Pavlovich, it is not a long way from the common ruble to a common army with Russia?

[Kazlowski] Nobody says that there will be any unified CIS armed forces. The status of our Army is defined by the Constitution and the policy of neutrality, which has been conducted by our young state. There is no need to change this. While the independent Belarusian state exists, it will definitely have its own army.

Another thing is that today we are unable to defend our sovereignty alone, either from military or political or economic viewpoints. Yes, Belarus is a state which proceeds toward neutrality, but not toward self-isolation!

Why should we disrupt the unified antiaircraft defense system with Russia? Without Russian radars we would end up totally undefended against airstrikes by modern planes and missiles. It is technically impossible to develop any system of early warning on a small territory. I do not mention using satellites without which efficient defense and military command is unthinkable.

Let us look at personnel training. To train, for example, pilots, it is necessary to create completely new structures, which would cost millions of dollars. The development of military science and new equipment... The list can go on and on. I would briefly respond to your question that Belarus needs a national army included in the CIS collective security system. The deeper the military integration the more reliable the defense of our state.

Hryb Discusses Assistance With Europarliament Members

WS0505141594 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 28 Apr 94 p 1

[Report attributed to BELINFORM: "We Look At the West Without Suspicion"]

[Text] We were moving to the European Union very slowly. Belarus could have become a member of this international organization as early as two years ago. This opinion was expressed by Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb, upon his return from Strasbourg, where he met with Europarliament members. The legislative speaker held a press conference devoted to the results of the visit.

Mr. Hryb said that during the meetings with the Europarliament members, the Belarusian delegation participated in a discussion about issues related to the development of political and economic links between our Republic and member states of the European Union. Examined were forms of technical assistance for Belarus dedicated to disarmament and liquidation of Chernobyl accident consequences. In the words of the speaker, negotiations were difficult on recognizing Belarus as a Republic with a transition economy, which could provide our country with certain economic privileges.

It is a pity, Mechyslaw Hryb noted, that many participants in the meetings had one-sided information and only a vague notion about Belarus. This resulted in their lack of trust in us, creating obstacles in the way of foreign investments.

To strengthen ties with Europarliament members and provide them with more information, it was decided to send a Belarusian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to this international organization.

Mechyslaw Hryb said that the Belarusian delegation members also participated in a forum (Crance-Montana) devoted to current political and economic issues that was held in Bucharest. The forum was attended by more than 1,000 participants from 45 countries. The Belarusian delegation head delivered a report on economic development at the plenary meeting. Mechyslaw Hryb also met with Romanian President Ion Illiescu.

Country Needs $8 Million To Scrap Military Technology

MK0505102094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 May 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev report under the "News" rubric: "No Getting Rid of Vast 'Collection' of Arms Without Help"]

[Text] Minsk—The National Agency for Control and Inspections (NACI) has officially denied reports alleging that Belorussia [Belarus] has suspended the elimination of military technology under the Treaty on Conventional Arms Reduction in Europe.

It is thought in the NACI that Belorussia would require at least $8 million to fully honor the obligations under the treaty. Belorussia's repeated appeals to Western states in this regard, however, have elicited no response.

Kebich Reportedly Restores Soviet-Era 'Secrecy Regime'

WS0505141194 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 26 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Mikola Hrynyavitski: "Kebich Restored the Secrecy Regime Which Existed in Former Soviet Union"]

[Text] On 19 April, V. Kebich signed a secret Cabinet of Ministers resolution "On Ensuring the Secrecy Regime on the Territory of the Belarusian Republic." Through unofficial sources, SVABODA has secured a copy of this document. We quote: "The Cabinet of Ministers resolves that before the Supreme Soviet, a legal act regulating issues related to protecting state secrets, government institutions, organizations, and economic entities should comply with instructions on ensuring the secrecy regime in ministries,

institutions, enterprises, and organizations of the USSR, approved by the USSR Council of Ministers on 12 May 1987."

We know that the Cabinet of Ministers tried but failed to draft its own instructions. It is not clear whether the reason was shortage of time or brains... So they decided to reinstate the Soviet secrecy regime, which was proven by practice.

According to a SVABODA correspondent, this 60-page document was written by Comrade Kryuchkov, former chief of the Soviet KGB. The document is perfect. In compliance with it, information on, for example, the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster was kept secret.

Moldova

Council of Europe Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD0505110494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev, 5 May TASS—The Moldavian [Moldovan] Government and a visiting delegation from the Council of Europe are to discuss the programme of mutual cooperation. The delegation, which includes experts from the European Parliament, arrived here on Wednesday [4 May] night.

Moldavia, which now enjoys the status of special invitee, may be admitted to the Council of Europe during the organisation's autumn meeting, Dmitriy Dyakov, chairman of the Moldavian Parliament Commission for Foreign Policy, told journalists.

During the two-day visit, the delegation is scheduled to meet parliament head Petr Luchinskiy, Prime Minister Andrey Sangeli and Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov.

Economic Cooperation Treaty Signed With Belarus

LD0505135994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 5 May—The heads of the Moldovan and Belarusian Governments signed an agreement on commercial and economic cooperaton in 1994 in Chisinau today. According to Moldovan Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli, this document removes obstacles to the movement of goods between the two countries. Minsk is now one of Chisinau's main partners. Chisinau sends foodstuffs to Belarus, receiving in return engineering products and refined fuel.

Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich told ITAR-TASS that the greatest obstacle to integration among the CIS countries was the shortcomings of the payments system and fluctuations in currency rates. Merging monetary systems with Russia would not be an impediment in Belarus's relations with the other republics, but, on the contrary, would work to get rid of this shortcoming. He denied rumors saying differences had arisen between the leadership of Russia and Belarus over differing approaches to the merger of monetary systems. The first stage, Vyacheslav Kebich said, of this merger is now under way: removing duties, quotas, licences and other obstacles to the movement of goods and people.

"What we are doing with Russia is way ahead of the processes taking place in the CIS and even the proposal by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan for a Euroasian Union," Kebich emphasized. "We believe that our example might perhaps be followed by other republics, which will achieve the same degree of synchronization of legislation, as we are with Russia."

The Moldovan prime minister expressed regret that the time for merging the monetary systems of the CIS countries had been missed. "Moldova has introduced its own currency, and we believe everything has to be done to make the CIS and the inter-state bank, which has been set up within the CIS, work properly," he told ITAR-TASS. "To do this we need to summon up our courage and implement what has been signed at previous CIS heads meetings. If this happens many problems, including those concerning payments, will disappear."

President's Talks With Belarus, Turkey Previewed

LD0505175594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[Text] INTERFAX learned that the introduction of dual citizenship for ethnic Belarussians [Belarusians] in Moldova and Moldovans in Belarus will be high on the agenda of talks between President Mircea Snegur and Chairman of the Belarussian parliament Mechyslaw Hryb and Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich scheduled for Thursday in Kishinev [Chisinau].

In an interview with INTERFAX, chairman of the Belarussian parliamentary commission on ethnic relations Mikhail Slemnev pointed out that the Belarussian legislation on citizenship allows ethnic Belarussians who have not gained citizenships of other countries to get the Belarussian citizenship by registering in Belarussian embassies in these countries.

He also said that during a two-day visit of the Belarussian leaders, including apart from the meeting with President Snegur talks with the Moldovan head of parliament and prime minister it is also planned to consider the implementation of the Belarussian-Moldovan treaty on friendship and cooperation. It is expected that heads of governments of the two countries will sign a trade economic agreement.

At a meeting between Snegur and presidents of the Ukrainian, Belarussian, and Moldovan Academies of Sciences

before Hryb's and Kebich's visit to Kishinev, Snegur said that the liquidation of barriers between republics of the former Soviet Union and the restoration of the signle economic space is one of the main goals facing leaders of the CIS states.

The Moldovan president described the meeting in Kishinev between the presidents of the Academies of Sciences of the three republics as a decent example for politicians who "should join their efforts to overcome the crisis in relations between the young states."

The program of international contacts of the Moldovan leader includes Snegur's meeting with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel scheduled for early June in Kishinev.

Snegur told journalists on Wednesday that the Republic attributes great significance to the visit.

Snegur said that, as a result of the talks, documents will be signed "which would promote relations between the two states." According to the president, soon Moldova will open its embassy in Ankara.

IF Note: Among documents planned for the signing is an agreement on cooperation between Moldova and Turkey, a number of projects to modernize the agricultural production, the touristic industry, Moldovan telecommunications. It is expected that Demirel and Snegur will visit villages populated by the Gagauzes.

Chisinau-Tiraspol Agreement Hailed as 'Breakthrough'

PM0605090594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Report by Arkadiy Pasechnik: "Dniester Breakthrough"]

[Text] Chisinau—Local and foreign observers described the meeting which took place on the eve of the May Day celebrations in Tiraspol as a most significant political step, a kind of breakthrough, in resolving the very complex problem of the Dniester Region. It resulted in a statement signed by President of Moldavia [Moldova] Mircea Snegur and Dniester Region leader Igor Smirnov.

The document notes that a new sociopolitical situation has now developed, which is an important prerequisite for the successful resolution of this protracted crisis, which has inflicted colossal damage on the economy and claimed many lives. The sides emphasized their exclusive commitment to peaceful means of resolving the conflict based on the existing social, economic, and political realities. A firm intention was expressed to take into consideration the CSCE mission's recommendations, the Russian Federation's views, and the positive experience gained from securing peace settlements in other regions.

At the meeting, in which a CSCE mission representative, R.S. Semuel [name as transliterated], and the Russian president's plenipotentiary, Ambassador V. Vasev, took the role of mediators, the sides agreed to begin the process of negotiations immediately and without any preconditions on a whole range of issues of mutual interest. Among the most important of these questions is, of course, that of determining the Dniester Region's legal status as a state. Moreover, the statement noted that it is necessary to remove all barriers preventing the normal utilization of commercial and economic and social and cultural ties, and to ensure their revival and development. The sides agreed on the need for a step-by-step program to create and implement legal state relations and in general to implement mutual agreements.

It is hard to overestimate the importance of the document, which has finally come into being after many years' bitter confrontation and after the bloody armed conflict of the summer of 1992. But it is, nevertheless, no accident that one Chisinau newspaper immediately described it as a protocol of intent. Certainly good intent. However, only goodwill, realism, and persistence on the part of politicians can implement it, meeting the keen expectations of people on both sides of the Dniester.

Kazakhstan

Authorities Lift State of Emergency in Almaty

LD0505123494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1028 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The state of emergency declared in Kazakhstan's capital Almaty on April 29 due to the shortage of fuel was lifted on 4 May. As the Deputy Mayor Yakov Zayts, who leads a commission on emergencies, has told INTERFAX, there was fuel rationing in the city on 29 April for all enterprises and organizations not involved in vital urban services.

In his words, the city's administration were forced to take extreme measures because of poor oil supply, slashed because of the consumer debt. He reported that the debts had been partially repaid at the expense of credits. According to his information, a number of state oil refineries have already sent about 3000 tonnes of gasoline to Almaty. He noted that "a small fuel reserve" has been created in the city, and "the situation is returning to normal."

Armed Forces' Policy Involves Cooperation With Russia

LD0405192694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1819 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Military cooperation with Russia is the strategic policy of the Kazakh Armed Forces, Kazakh Defense Minister Sagadat Nurmagambetov stated at a press conference in Alma-Ata [Almaty] dedicated to the second anniversary of the Kazakh Army.

Nurmagambetov stressed that the most difficult period of renewal of the Kazakh Armed Forces was over. The Army has been equipped with personnel, uniform and technical means. Nurmagambetov pointed out that Kazakhstan was the last among the CIS states to place the troops stationed on its own territory under its jurisdiction.

Nurmagambetov said that earlier Kazakhstan had stood for a single CIS or Russian-Kazakh Army. He emphasized that several agreements on implementation of the treaty on military cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan would be signed in late May during the Russian governmental delegation's visit to Alma-Ata.

Nurmagambetov announced that an agreement on Russia's lending the Sary-Shagan anti-missile training ground in Central Kazakhstan was being worked on. He said Kazakhstan conditioned the lending with education of Kazakh military specialists in Russia. He stressed that Sary-Shagan would not be a Russian military base since there would be no Russian troops.

No establishment of any military bases in Kazakhstan was expected, Nurmagambetov stated. The strategic armed forces stationed in Kazakhstan will be withdrawn from it by 2000. The withdrawal has already begun, he added.

Nurmagambetov underlined that Kazakhstan had modern military equipment of the Soviet model and did not have to purchase more of it. The equipment is served in Kazakhstan on a plant for the repairing of defense equipment. In future Kazakhstan will buy military equipment only from Russia, Nurmagambetov said.

Money Shortage Delays Elimination of Radioactive Waste

LD0505123094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1028 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Representatives of Kazakhstan's Ministry for Ecology and Biological Resources fear that the shortage of money causes delays in commissioning (late 1994) of the first stage of the Republic's system of utilization and burial of radioactive waste. A spokesman for the Ministry said that the program may be hampered by the negative attitude towards it by the heads of the regional administrations. For example, only the leadership of the Akmolinsk Region gave its consent for burial sites of radioactive waste on its territory.

This year it is also planned to devise maps of the burial of radioactive waste and its sources on the territory of Kazakhstan, to take photos and start research studies in the area of the Semipalatinsk test ground. The Ministry plans to spend 12.04 million tenges (over 414,000 US dlrs)

Last year the volume of investments constituted 1.82 million tenges (over 384,000 US dlrs as of the date of the introduction of the national currency in the republic). However, the general contractor responsible for the fulfillment of the radio ecological works, the National Nuclear Center of Kazakhstan, could not cope with the planned volume of research work due to the lack of funds.

At present the Republic has a total of 900 enterprises polluting the environment and over 75,339 other sources of radioactive pollutants.

Kyrgyzstan

Televised Executions Promoted as Crime-Fighting Move

MK0505110094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 5 May 94 p 5

[Report by Larisa Ivanova under the "Kirgizia" rubric: "TV Viewers Will See Executions. Republic's Leaders Think This Will Help Fight Crime"]

[Text] One more nightmarish novelty—seeing executions on your home television—may soon be added to the horrors taking place in the post-Soviet space. The news agency POSTFACTUM has learned from unofficial sources close to the president's staff that the public relations department has "for a long time and seriously" been discussing the possibility of such broadcasts on the Republic's television. Should this rather extravagant idea be approved by the Republic's parliament, the department's staffers would begin drawing up corresponding documents. Local observers believe such broadcasts would prove to be the biggest "box-office" shows.

Major General Sutalinov, the Republic's minister of internal affairs, has stated in this regard that in a civilized state such educational measures are unacceptable, but "in our bleak living even the impossible is possible." "Neighboring Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] went for it but it has hardly improved the crime situation in the fraternal republic," the general pointed out.

This is essentially simply savagery, and it is not going to help combat crime a bit. On the contrary, having grown to be a customary sight, death would erode the principles of humanism in people's minds because violence, even in the form of punishment, only breeds violence.

Tajikistan

Former Vice President Wounded in Assassination Attempt

LD0605090694 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] INTERFAX has learned there was an assassination attempt in Dushanbe yesterday against Narzullo Dustov, a deputy of the Tajik parliament and former vice president of the country.

Unidentified persons opened machinegun fire from a Zhiguli car as Dustov and his bodyguards were getting out of a car. The deputy and one bodyguard were wounded. The attackers got away.

Rakhmonov Interviewed on Upcoming Moscow Visit

LD0505165894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1431 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: By diplomatic correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] As INTERFAX learned from Russia's Foreign Ministry, the chairman of Tajikistan's parliament, Emomali Rakhmonov, arrives in Moscow at about 1530 on Thursday for a one-day working visit.

"Rakhmonov expressed his wish to come to Moscow to confer with President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin long ago," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told INTERFAX.

According to him, the Tajik leader intends to discuss with the Russian premier a package of economic issues. "These will include primarily the prospects for Tajikistan's joining the ruble area. Judging by the information available to us, Dushanbe will accept any conditions advanced by Russia," the diplomat said.

At his meeting with Yeltsin Rakhmonov will discuss political problems, he noted. "As far as we know, Rakhmonov would like to discuss with the Russian leader the situation in Tajikistan and on the border with Afghanistan," the official said.

The draft of a new constitution was published in Tajikistan recently, INTERFAX's interviewee said. "The Tajik leadership is working on different ways to accomplish reforms, and it would like to secure Russia's support in this respect," he said.

On Friday Rakhmonov is to confer with the head of Russian diplomacy, Andrey Kozyrev, the diplomat said. The two men will focus on problems connected with the inter-Tajik dialogue, the first round of which was held in Moscow recently. "Russia is not only interested in furthering the talks between the Dushanbe government and the Tajik opposition; it intends to nudge the two sides toward a political solution to their conflict," he said.

INTERFAX's interviewee found it hard to say when and where the next round of inter-Tajik talks will take place. "This will depend largely on the special envoy of the U.N. secretary general for Tajikistan, Piris Ballon, who intends to make a tour of the region shortly," he said. "He is likely to choose either Tehran or Islamabad."

Leaves for Moscow

LD0505143094 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1200 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] A state delegation from Tajikistan headed by Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, left for Moscow today on a working visit at the invitation of Boris Yeltsin, president of Russian Federation.

The delegation comprises Abdujalil Samadov, chairman of the republic's Council of Ministers; Kayum Kavmiddinov, chairman of the National Bank; Rashid Olimov, minister of foreign Affairs; Rustam Mirzoyev, minister of economics and forecasting; (Yunusov), minister of finance; and a group of experts.

In Moscow Emomali Rakhmonov, head of state and chairman of the Tajikistan Supreme Soviet, will meet with Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, and other state officials and will sign documents regulating mutual beneficial relations.

The state delegation was seen off at Dushanbe airport by the vice chairmen of the Supreme Soviet and of the Council of Ministers and other officials.

Opposition Launches Offensive Fearing Breach of Accord

MK0505103094 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 May 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Rotar under "Tajikistan" rubric: "More Casualties on Tajik-Afghan Border. Opposition Seems To Have Launched Big Offensive"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] To all appearances, a new sharp spiral in the escalation of tensions in Tajikistan is in the cards. According to information received from sources close to opposition leaders, as many as six Russian border guards, not one, were killed in the recent clash along the Tajik border, and eight were wounded with two of them

being in serious condition. The opposition contend that their like-minded associates were firing from Tajik territory. According to information from the same source, Tajik militants are arriving in great numbers from Afghanistan in the Pamirs. Tajik opposition members who live in Moscow cannot clearly explain what is happening in their own country because communications with their associates from Afghanistan have been broken. They think, however, that leaders of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan in Afghanistan have decided that Dushanbe has breached the understanding reached with the opposition by starting to discuss a new constitution before the second round of talks, and has clearly gambled on a military solution of the question. Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has come to learn that Tajikistan leaders have been urgently summoned to Moscow.

Government Pushes for Single Monetary System With Russia

LD0505124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 5 May TASS—One of the main objectives of the current visit to Moscow of the state and government delegation from Tajikistan, led by the Republic's leader Emomali Rakhmonov is to convince Moscow that it is necessary to speed up the process of unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Tajikistan, a ranking source in the Tajik Government told ITAR-TASS.

The Tajik delegation includes Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov, Foreign Minister Rashid Olimov, National Bank Chairman Kayum Kavmidinov and a large group of experts. According to an official version, set forth by Emomali Rakhmonov's press secretary Nabi Karimov, the deepening and expansion of bilateral political, economic, and military cooperation will be discussed with the Russian leadership in Moscow.

A Tajik Government official said any further procrastination on the process of unification of the monetary systems can lead to unpredictable political and economic consequences, since the industrial production slump has already reached a critical point because of blocked payments and the majority of the population have not received pay packets and various social allowances since the beginning of the year.

Asked whether Tajikistan was planning to introduce temporary banknotes for the duration of the transitional period, as announced by the prime minister at recent press conference, the government official said there was no uniform approach to the problem among the Republics leaders. Moreover, Emomali Rakhmonov and National Bank Chairman Kayum Kavmidinov are against this measure. According to the official the Tajik leader will ask Moscow for more Russian cash to last through the transition period.

Russian journalists at Dushanbe airport were denied even a blitz interview with the republic's top leaders before their departure for Moscow. Prime Minister Abdudzhalil Samadov said all details of the visit will be released to journalists after the visit.

Turkmenistan

Presidents Niyazov, Nazarbayev Hold Phone Conversation

LD0505170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Kurbanova]

[Text] Ashgabat 5 May TASS—President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev had a telephone conversation on Wednesday [4 May] night, the "TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA" daily writes on Thursday.

The two leaders agreed to hold as soon as possible a meeting between heads of the Caspian countries to discuss various regional issues.

President Nazarbayev confirmed that Kazakhstan intended to participate in an international consortium, which would build gas and oil pipelines from Turkmenistan to the countries of Persian Gulf.

The two presidents also discussed ways of developing bilateral interstate relations on the basis of mutual benefit.

Uzbekistan

Republican Parliament Session Begins; Karimov Speaks

LD0505100594 Tashkent Radio Tashkent Network in Uzbek 0600 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] The 15th session of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan of the 12th convocation started its work in Tashkent today. A total of (?450) Uzbek peoples deputies, elected in the Republic of Karakalpakistan and in Uzbekistan's provinces, are participating in the session, which was opened by Shavkat Khalilov, acting chairman of the Republic's Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

The session's agenda was approved and its secretariat elected.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov spoke at the session on the current economic and social situation and on developments in the economic sphere. The session is continuing its work.

Karimov Addresses Parliament

LD0505180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 86 (576)]

[Text] President Islam Karimov in a keynote speech at the opening session of parliament in Tashkent on Thursday [5

May] said his country was firmly on the road of independence. He spoke of intensive work under way to try to implement market reforms and promote private enterprise.

Karimov put the number of state-run businesses falling into private hands at more than 800 with the number of private companies being doubled. He said the country's privatization process had no analogs adding that one in three workers was employed in the private sector.

On the country's interim currency unit, the som-coupon, introduced six months ago, he said that although it was gaining in strength against other currencies, Uzbekistan was in need of a permanent national currency unit as an indication of its true independence. Karimov called to examine the experience gained by other countries to make the new currency unit prestigious.

He expressed surprise why preference should be given to the Russian ruble rather than the currencies of neighboring states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan. This, he said, is throwback to the times when Uzbekistan depended on Moscow and was considered to be a net exporter of raw materials. "We are well aware that the ruble is stronger than the coupon. That is why Uzbekistan must also introduce a strong currency unit similar to Russia's to help us break into the world market," he said.

Karimov said that the newly-built money-printing facility could help produce a sufficient amount of new banknotes and coins to be circulated soon, possibly in July.

At the same time, he called for higher exports as a way of increasing foreign exchange revenues including the U.S. dollar which was stronger than the ruble. Karimov said this year's export earnings would run at 1.5 billion dollars or 40-50 percent of the country's potential of export trade. But the figure can be doubled, he said.

Karimov spoke of widespread public support for economic reforms. But the process must evolve within the framework of law. In this connection, he stressed the need to step up the war on corruption which was capable of eroding government activity.

The Uzbek leader called on commercial structures to do their job honestly. "If the businessmen break laws, the people will curse them," he said.

Karimov accused whom he described as some CIS leaders of having engaged in rhetoric "which has led to bad results."

He also spoke of the newly-emerging situation in Russia and a drive by some of its politicians to restore Russian clout to the region. Karimov is worried over LDP leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky's statements which, he believes, "poses threat to the future of Uzbekistan."

Karimov is also opposed to concepts such as common parliament, language and currency. The leaders of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan during a recent summit had agreed to drop the concept of a Eurasian Union, Karimov said.

IF Note: The idea of a Eurasian Union complete with supranational structures to coordinate economic and defence policies was put forward by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan during a visit to Moscow in March. He said such an entity could help pursue a common economic policy, introduce common frontiers and a supranational currency unit with national currencies kept intact. However, Nazarbayev's initiative has drawn little support from other CIS leaders.

Our main task, said Karimov, is to preserve the country's independence and work together with other CIS states to try to bring an early economic recovery. No one will give us any reversal to the past, he said.

Supreme Council Adopts New Laws

LD0505195594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Today the new Uzbek parliament adopted a package of laws in order to improve the state system and to speed up the market reforms at its session opened in Tashkent.

Deputies adopted a law on the Uzbek parliament (Oly Majlis) at first reading. The parliament will consist of 250 deputies elected from territorial districts on the multiparty basis for a five-year term. Laws on local elections and guarantees for suffrage were also passed.

The Uzbek parliament adopted several economic laws, including a law on foreign investments and investors. The law provides for preferential treatment for foreign investors aimed at reducing the risk of loss of capital and to guarantee the property rights. Laws on bankruptcy and taxes on operations with securities were also passed.

The Uzbek parliament will continue its work on 6 May.

Supreme Council Honors President, War Veterans

PM0605140594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 May 94 First Edition p 5

[Report from the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA-ITAR-TASS column: "Islam Karimov—Uzbekistan's First Hero"]

[Text] The participants in the 15th Uzbekistan Supreme Council session yesterday decided to award the title "Uzbekiston Kakhramoni" [name as transliterated] ("Hero of Uzbekistan") with a gold star bearing the number one to the republic's president, President Islam Karimov.

At the Uzbekistan president's proposal, the session participants decided to mark Victory Day by awarding the medal "Zhasorat" [name as transliterated] ("Feat") to all the more than 180,000 Great Patriotic War participants living in the republic, and the medal "Shukhrat" ("Glory") to the more than 130,000 inhabitants of Uzbekistan who took part in the labor front during the Great Patriotic War.

Armenia

Yerevan Updates Situation, Reports Attacks

NC0505193594 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Dear listeners, we now present a report on the latest incidents in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

It was hoped that the combat operations would be suspended on the eve of the meeting the speakers of the parliaments of the disputing countries will have. That would give an opportunity to the sides to exchange views on what has to be done. Regrettably, however, those who cherished that hope have been disappointed. The relatively peaceful situation along the front lines lasted only 24 hours. Azerbaijan's military forces have resumed their intensive military operations in the confrontation areas in the NKR. The NKR Defense Army Headquarters Press Service has disclosed that Azerbaijan's military units have maintained their attacks against various parts of Mardakertskiy Rayon. The NKR military units not only obstructed their attacks in the clashes in the vicinity of Chayly and Karmiravan but also placed several heights under their control. Azerbaijan's military units were forced to withdraw to their positions after suffering many casualties.

Attacks were launched from the military bases in [words indistinct] today. The NKR defense forces have successfully rebuffed the onslaughts.

Using military vehicles, Azerbaijan's military forces tried to penetrate the NKR lines close to Agdam yesterday morning. However, they failed in their attempt. Their onslaughts were obstructed. The advancing units were forced to retreat.

It is common knowledge that the neighboring republic's leaders are convinced that sending their young men to die is the only way to remove the economic crisis in Azerbaijan. However, that republic's leaders and reactionary forces are well aware that resolving the dispute through the use of armed force is impossible.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's military forces have maintained their provocative activities on Armenia's border. They intensely fired on Armenia's northeastern border with artillery units last night and today. The defense positions and residential areas close to the border in Noyemberyanskiy, Idzhevanskiy, Tavushskiy, and Krasnoselskiy Rayons were fired on with heavy artillery units and Grad rocket launchers. The attacks have caused damage. Our military units were forced to launch retaliatory operations.

Two of Azerbaijan's military aircraft flew over the border for reconnaissance purposes and disappeared in the direction of the Khanlar locality in Azerbaijan at about 1800 yesterday. However, the enemy was not satisfied with that provocative action. Two enemy infantry groups launched an attack on Berkaber in Noyemberyanskiy Rayon at 2200. A wave of intensive artillery fire preceded their attack. Armenia's border troops forced the Azerbaijani units to retreat after suffering many casualties. No one was hurt on the Armenian side. Meanwhile, the Armenian fighters clashed with another enemy group close to Aygehovit in Idzhevanskiy Rayon. Azerbaijan's troops were attacked and forced to retreat. There were dead and wounded on both sides.

Shelling Damages Gas Pipeline, Halts Supplies

LD0505173794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1707 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 5 May TASS—As a result of shelling at the only operating gas pipeline in Armenia from the territory of Azerbaijan, the pipeline was damaged leaving Armenia without gas, Roland Adonts, general director of the "Armgazprom" state enterprise, told ITAR-TASS. The accident occurred on the territory of the frontier Noemberyan district of Armenia where specialists from the "Armgazprom" were sent for repairs.

Meanwhile, the gas pipeline damage has immediately affected the electric power supply of Yerevan and other cities and districts of Armenia. Under the transport blockade conditions gas is the only fuel for Armenian thermal power stations. Therefore, residents of Yerevan are supplied with electricity only for one-two hours daily as it was in winter.

Foreign Minister Views Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

PY0505131594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 4 May 94 p 28

[Interview with Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan by CLARIN reporter Telma Luzzani in Buenos Aires; date not given]

[Text] [Papazyan] Armenia's economy and political life is directly affected by the [Nagorno-Karabakh] conflict. For us, a peaceful solution to the conflict is of prime importance. There are at present two proposals for achieving peace in Nagorno-Karabakh: The CSCE proposal and the Russian proposal. Armenia has accepted both and what is more, we have convinced the Nagorno-Karabakh authorities to accept them too. But do not believe it was an easy task.

[Luzzani] Why?

[Papazyan] Because neither proposal guarantees protection for the Karabakh population following the peace agreement, and it goes without saying that the documents do not talk about the enclave's "independence."

[Luzzani] Both proposals speak about withdrawal of troops. Is Karabakh willing to withdraw from the occupied Azerbaijani territory?

[Papazyan] One should put that question to Karabakh's authorities, but I believe that if they accepted the proposals it is because they are willing to withdraw their troops. Azerbaijan will also have to withdraw its troops from

northern Karabakh. The Azerbaijani Government has, however, rejected both proposals.

[Luzzani] Is there practically no possibility of a cease-fire?

[Papazyan] I would not say so. Azerbaijan is also steeped in a critical situation and sooner or later will have to accept that the solution will not be found through military intervention. There will come a moment when it will have to accept the CSCE's proposal since it does not want Russian troops to return to its territory. Ideally, international troops should be used to ensure that peace will not be broken. Russia will not be able to oppose this.

[Luzzani] How are relations between Armenia and Iran at present?

[Papazyan] Our relations are those of good neighbors. There are some problems because the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has spread to its boarders and Iran does not like that at all. Iran is also interested in a peaceful solution.

[Luzzani] And with Turkey?

[Papazyan] We do not have diplomatic relations with Turkey, which totally closed its border with Armenia and it openly promotes Azerbaijani interests.

[Luzzani] Does Russia continue to be Armenia's leading partner?

[Papazyan] Russia is enmeshed in a very serious economic crisis. Armenia is Moscow's ally, but the Russian Government finds it difficult to provide aid to its allies. Moreover, we have very good relations with the EC, the United States, Argentina. Our foreign policy is orientated towards a balanced opening.

[Luzzani] And with the other former Soviet Republics?

[Papazyan] Relations with the Ukraine are not as deep as they should be because Kiev is in an even worse situation than Moscow. We have very good relations with republics in Central Asia, especially with Turkmenistan. From the economic standpoint, I would say our main partners are Russia first, followed by Turkmenistan, with Iran in third place.

Foreign Minister Comments on Russian Ambitions

LD0505135594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1218 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Trushin]

[Text] Buenos Aires 5 May TASS—Armenian Foreign Minister Vagan Papazyan announced that "imperial ambitions are alien to the Russian leadership. Praising Russian-Armenian relations, he said that they are of principal importance in Armenia's foreign policy, have historically been "very good," and remain so.

"We hope that the democratic changes which have begun on the territory of the former Soviet Union will deepen and that, in that connection, all such suspicions (of Russian imperialism) will disappear," the foreign minister stated. "We need partner-like relations, and they have now been established with Russia," he told ITAR-TASS in Buenos Aires, where he is on an official visit upon the invitation of the Government of Argentina.

The Armenian foreign minister called for the unification of Russian and CSCE efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Both Russia and the European body are trying to unlock the Karabakh conflict, but the existence of two separate initiatives gives, mostly, Azerbaijan and also, partly, Nagorno-Karabakh the freedom to tack between the two sides without accepting either proposal, Papazyan said.

"Russia needs stability in the Caucasus. Therefore, it seems to us, the Russian leadership is sincere in its approach to the solution of that conflict," the minister noted. "The most rational element in Russia's proposals is that it is impossible to achieve a cease-fire without introducing separating forces. Nobody except Russia is ready to send their troops into that region. The Azerbaijan side has doubts about allowing the introduction of Russian troops. However, if that is done in cooperation with international institutes such as the CSCE and UN, then Azerbaijan will have no grounds for concern," Papazyan stressed.

Foreign Minister Signs Agreements in Buenos Aires

NC0505131494 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] An Armenian Foreign Ministry delegation led by [Armenian Foreign Minister] Vahan Papazyan arrived in the capital of Argentina on 2 May for an official visit. On the same day, he met Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo. Mr. Papazyan noted during the meeting that the agreements signed between the two countries on stimulating capital investments, on mutual [words indistinct], and on trade and economic cooperation serve as a good foundation for the further development of the Armenia-Argentine economic cooperation. He hoped that the Armenian-Argentine trade and economic symposium to open in Buenos Aires soon will give both sides the opportunity to reach an agreement on concrete cooperation.

In stressing the role of the Armenian community's businessmen in the economic reform in Argentina, Mr. Cavallo noted the importance of their participation in the Armenian-Argentine trade and economic cooperation. An agreement was reached to send a delegation of the Argentine businessmen to Armenia in the near future.

Ara Hakobyan, Armenian charge d'affaires ad interim in Argentina, was present at the meeting.

Also, the Armenian Embassy in Argentina was inaugurated on 2 May. Vahan Papazyan was present and made the opening speech. Argentine officials, representatives of the Armenian community, and foreign diplomats were present at the ceremony.

The Armenian foreign minister also visited St. Grigor Lusavorich Church and placed flowers at the monument to the victims of 1915 genocide. Mr. Papazyan also met with

the Armenian community of Argentina. He informed them about the domestic political and economic situation in Armenia and detailed Armenia's stance on the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. Speaking on Armenia's foreign policy issues, he emphasized the role of Argentina, which has been elected a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, in the solution of problems related to the interests of our Republic. At the end of the meeting Papazyan replied to questions.

The Armenian foreign minister met Argentine President Carlos Menem and Foreign Minister Guido di Tella on 3 May. Armenian-Argentine interstate agreements were signed.

Vice President Returns From Iran, Comments

NC0505212394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by Gevorg Gazaryan on news conference held by Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan in Yerevan on 5 May—recorded]

[Text] [Gazaryan] An Armenian delegation headed by the Republic's Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan paid a two-day visit to Iran. The delegation returned last night, and today the head of the delegation briefed reporters on the high-level contacts during which matters pertaining to the activation of Armenian-Iranian ties were discussed.

Mr. Arutyunyan said that the construction of the bridge [over the Araks River] will also start on the Iranian bank of the river. A new highway to Tehran is being planned, in which the Armenian workers will participate. Agreements were concluded on expanding the volume of future work. The Turkmenistan-Iran-Armenia power line was also discussed. The sides considered it necessary to activate the border trade. However, at present, the most important issue is regulating the border crossing for civilians. The Iranian side was also interested in Armenia's information on the Iranian plane crash. Taking this opportunity, Mr. Arutyunyan also briefed us on the information available to him.

[Arutyunyan] In order to assess and arrive at conclusions at least the following six questions must be answered:

1. What should the relevant Moscow services have done but failed to do? As already documented, 50 minutes into the flight from Moscow airport, the plane sharply lost altitude by 400 meters because of [words indistinct] near [name indistinct] settlement. It refused to return to Moscow airport and continued its flight. It must be clearly determined what the technical condition of the plane was before departing Moscow [words indistinct].

2. What should the relevant services in Georgia have done but failed to do, or did them incorrectly? This too must be determined, because according to records, the air traffic controllers contacted the plane and gave it instructions and fixed its coordinates. There are points here that need to be further clarified. There is a need for a specialized investigation of these records.

3. What should the relevant Armenian services have done but failed to do, or did them incorrectly? According to our information, the Armenian services were in constant contact with the Georgian services and with the plane through a Russian plane [words indistinct]. We must find definitive answers to all these questions.

4. What could the relevant Karabakh services have done but failed to do?

5. What should the relevant Azerbaijani services have done but failed to do [words indistinct]?

6. And finally, what should have been done but was not done properly or was done incorrectly by the plane's crew [words indistinct]?

A final conclusion can be reached only after finding answers to these six questions.

Having familiarized itself with our position and [words indistinct], the Iranian side concluded that the investigative work should continue to find answers to all these questions, and based on these answers, to arrive at a conclusion without any intention of using this accident for political purposes or for [words indistinct].

[Gazaryan] At the end of the news conference, the Armenian Vice President Gagik Arutyunyan replied to reporters' questions.

Azerbaijan

Armenian Attacks in Karabakh Said Repulsed

NC0505181794 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] According to Defense Ministry press service, Armenia's Armed Forces launched a new large scale offensive on the northern and northeastern sectors of the front at 0600 this morning. The Azerbaijani Army inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in Geranboy [Shaumyanovskiy] and Agdamskiy Rayons and forced them to retreat to their initial positions.

Supported by armored cars, the infantry units of the Armenian Army launched an attack on Kirmizikend [Karmiravan] in Terterskiy Rayon. Fighting continues in this region.

The desertions from the Armenian Army fighting in Karabakh has assumed a massive dimension. Colonel Grigoryan, commander of one of the military units of the Armenian Army fighting in Geranboy, shot and killed three Armenian soldiers from Gyumri for refusing to fight.

Armed Forces Fire on CSCE Mission

944K1162C Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed article under the heading "Panorama": "Armed Forces of Armenia Fired on CSCE Mission"]

[Text] On 28 April a delegation of the CSCE [Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe] Minsk Group was fired on by the Armenian armed forces in Azerbaijan's

Terterskiy Rayon. The KHABAR-SERVICE agency learned about this from the UN government [as published] in Azerbaijan. By a stroke of luck there were no casualties among the members of the delegation. As Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Hasan Hasanov told a correspondent of the KHABAR-SERVICE agency, this happened despite the fact that while visiting Yerevan the leader of the delegation, Mr. Mathias Mosberg, a deputy of the Minsk Conference [as published], informed the leadership of Armenia about a forthcoming visit of the mission he heads to Azerbaijan's Terterskiy Rayon, which is located in the immediate proximity of the front line. It should be stressed that the delegation was in the region on a peace-making mission, and the belligerent parties had been informed about the future route to be traveled by foreign diplomats several days in advance of their arrival. After firing on the motorcade of Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador at large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, this winter, the armed forces of Armenia have in this manner now expressed their attitude toward the peacemaking efforts of intermediaries for the second time.

Hasanov Letter on Armenian Aggression

944K1162F Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the heading "Panorama": "Letter by Hasan Hasanov to Leaders of a Number of International Organizations"]

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Hasan Hasanov has sent a message to the leaders of a number of authoritative international organizations. As the ANS-PRESS agency was told by the press service of the foreign policy department of the Republic, in the letter Hasan Hasanov stresses that such an appeal has been necessitated by numerous declarations by the leaders of Armenia to the effect that their republic has nothing to do with the Armenian-Azeri conflict. In conjunction with this, the minister of foreign affairs of Azerbaijan refers to certain facts that testify to the direct participation of official Yerevan in the armed aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan. In his letter the head of the diplomatic department of the republic gives a chronology of combat actions in the zone of the conflict, the response to them on the part of international organizations, and facts testifying to the direct participation of Armenia in the aggression. "The war is being fought on the territory of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia with the use of the separatist forces of Nagorno-Karabakh. The Armenian side is using in combat actions heavy materiel covered by the CFE Treaty, under which the materiel should be located on the territory of Armenia," says the letter. According to the assertions of the head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, the facts given indicate that Armenia has acted from the very beginning as the originator, organizer, and key participant in the armed aggression against the sovereign state of Azerbaijan.

Talks on Export Oil Pipeline Begin 2 May

944K1162D Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the heading "Panorama": "Will an Agreement on the Export Oil Pipeline Be Signed?"]

[Text] The issue of the route for laying an export pipeline will be discussed in Turkey at a meeting between representatives of foreign companies and the State Oil Company (GNK) of Azerbaijan which belong to a consortium for the joint development of the deposits of "black gold" in the republic. A KHABAR-SERVICE correspondent learned this from well-informed sources in the GNK. A contract on the pipeline might be signed after a week of negotiations and mutual accord is achieved. The entire management of the GNK will travel to the negotiations, which will begin on 2 May. GNK President Natik Aliyev was to travel to Turkey yesterday.

Let us recall that the contract for laying the export pipeline is a separate document whose preliminary signing is mandatory for the signing of a contract for the development of oil fields between the GNK and foreign companies.

Oil Production Levels Decline

944K1162E Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the heading "Panorama": "Oil Output Level Drops"]

[Text] The volume of oil production at the oil fields worked in the Republic has dropped annually by approximately 1 million tonnes. A correspondent of the KHABAR-SERVICE agency learned this from sources in the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan. At present annual output stands at the level of 10 million tonnes a year. This is largely due to the absence of necessary production technologies, because those available allow for extracting only 65 percent of producible oil. Lack of funds for repairs and the technical servicing of drilling rigs is another reason. In conjunction with this, about 2,000 wells both on land and at sea are completely idle at present.

Political Opposition More 'Civilized'

944K1162B Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed article under the heading "Panorama": "The Azerbaijani Opposition Has Become More Reasonable"]

[Text] As Leyla Yunusova, chairman of the Independent Democratic Party of Azerbaijan (NDPA), stated to the ANS-PRESS agency, compared to the previous periods the Azerbaijan opposition has sufficiently matured and become more civilized and restrained. In the words of Leyla Yunusova, no attempts to destabilize the situation in the Republic are being made by the opposition. On the contrary, the opposition is trying to engage in political struggle by more civilized and democratic methods. According to the NDPA chairman, three main political blocs have emerged in Azerbaijan: two oppositional blocs—the Democratic Congress and the Centrist Parties Bloc—and the third bloc—the leadership of the country. As Leyla Yunusova stressed, there are also parties which for one reason or another do not subscribe to the points of view of these three associations.

Iraq To Close Embassy in Baku

944K1162A Baku ZERKALO in Russian 30 Apr 94 p 3

[Unattributed article under the heading "Panorama": "Iraqi Embassy in Azerbaijan Is Closing"]

[Text] In the course of a meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan Hasan Hasanov, Faruq Salman Da'ud, head of the Iraqi Embassy in Baku, stated that the Iraqi diplomatic mission in Azerbaijan is being temporarily closed because of the difficult economic situation that has developed recently in that country. As the foreign policy department noted while informing the ANS-PRESS agency about this, F.S. Da'ud stressed that in view of a shortage of foreign exchange funds in Iraq, the government of that country has also been compelled to wind down the operation of diplomatic missions in [word illegible], Hungary, Romania, Poland, India, and a majority of African states. With reference to the significance of reinforcing Azerbaijani-Iraqi relations, the diplomat expressed the hope that the financial situation of his country will shortly make it possible to resume operation of the Iraqi Embassy in Baku.

Country's Currency Suffers as Exchange Rate Soars

NC0505123694 Baku AZERTAC in English 1721 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Baku, 4 May (AZERTAC)—Manat, Azeri national monetary unit seems to undergo the same fate as the Ukrainian Karbovanets. The manats exchange rate against the U.S. dollar has gone down by 90 per cent and against the Russian ruble by 2.5 times correspondingly. Thus, today one U.S. dollar costs 1000 manats and the Russian ruble 0.6 manats. The Azeri currency's rapid downfall provoked a feverish mood in the country. At Baku's parallel market on Molokanka square, the exchange rate of the foreign currency is being updated up to three times a day.

However, official exchange rates have not been adapted yet. According to the information available, the Azeri national bank pays 182.5 manats per dollar and 1 manat per 10 Russian rubles. That is why the center of currency transactions has moved from banking offices at the parallel market. According to specialists view, this is one more factor provoking the disastrous downfall of the local currency.

Azeri experts consider the principal reason of the present economic situation the absence of a flexible monetary policy in Azerbaijan. Some experts explain this situation by the small amount of foreign currency that is being earned by Azerbaijan since the Republic's industry has virtually stopped working. Moreover, the manat has not become an independent currency and its condition depends on fluctuation of rate of exchange of the Russian ruble as the national bank has not determined the manats real value so far. One of the local televisions observers has expressed a very original opinion concerning this situation. He explained it by the reason that governmental officers take their bribes in freely convertible currency only. However, he may guess all too near: Baku newspapers give many examples of this kind.

Though predictions are dismal—experts think that dollars rate will increase in about 40 per cent every month—the Republic is trying to find the way out from this crisis. Abolition of the law of limitation on export of strategic goods will undoubtedly provide more constant flow of currency. The experts think that the situation might be improved by creation of currency exchange offices where monetary transactions will be done in accordance with the reasonable rates of currency. The experts also say that development of the local industry and creation of normal conditions for small enterprises will be more effective in this case.

However, present monetary and credit crisis resulted in retirement of administration of the national bank. Through the ever falling manats exchange rate more people live below the poverty line. Now 60 per cent of the republics population—about 4 million people—live in poverty. According to one of Baku's newspapers, each of the poor needs 12,600 manats monthly, if not to take inflation into consideration, in order to satisfy the minimum needs. This amount of money is 70 and 170 per cent as much as it was necessary in March and January this year. According to Ministry of Labour and Social Security, one citizen needs 16 thousand manats for showing a sign of life, it is a so-called physiological minimum.

Meanwhile, a minimum salary of 900 manats is enough to buy half a kilogram of meat. So an average citizen of the Republic has to display miracles of resourcefulness in order not to kick the bucket.

Georgia

Russia's Pastukhov Arrives in Sukhumi for Talks

LD0505163394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1320 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov arrived in Sukhumi on 5 May for talks with the Abkhazian leadership, INTERFAX learned in the press service of the Abkhazian Embassy in Moscow.

The visit is aimed at preparing for the resumption of the Georgian-Abkhazian talks on Abkhazia's status in Moscow on 10 May, a press service spokesman said.

Pastukhov is head of the Russian delegation, which is the mediator in the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict.

Abkhazian Leaders, Russian Officials Hold Talks 5 May

LD0505192994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 5 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS string correspondent Zurab Argun]

[Text] Sukhumi 5 May TASS—Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev met with Abkhazian parliament speaker Vladislav Ardzinba and Prime Minister Sokrat Dzhindzholia in the town of Novy Afon on Thursday [5 May].

They tackled various issues, including preserving peace in Abkhazia, exact stationing of peace-making forces on the line of the current stand-off between Abkhazian and Georgian troops (that is, along the Inguri River).

The discussion took place behind closed doors.

Pastukhov and Kondartyev left for Moscow on Thursday night.

Parliament Approves National Bank Head, Rejects Minister

LD0505212294 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpts] A regular plenary meeting of the Georgian Parliament was held today. [passage omitted]

After a break, the parliament got down to discussing nominees to the Cabinet of Ministers. Nodar Javakhishvili was confirmed as the president of the National Bank. Tengiz Geleishvili's repeated nomination to the post of chairman of the State Committee of Foreign Economic Relations was rejected. [passage omitted]

Supreme Council Rejects Bill To Mark 'Victory Over Fascism'

LD0605063294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The deputies of the Georgian Supreme Council have rejected a draft decision on celebrating the victory over fascism. Accordingly, 9 May will be a working day in Georgia.

Sharp Drop Observed in Industrial Activity in 1994

NC0505114394 Yerevan SNARK in English 0956 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 4 May (SNARK)—The volume of industrial productivity in a period of first quarter of 1994 sharply decreased for 71.6 percent in comparison with the first quarter of 1993. The quantity of those workers and employees who are being involved into the industrial process decreased for 468 thousand people or for 22.8 percent, the Committee of Social and Economic Information of Georgia told SNARK.

In a period of the first quarter of 1994 the melting decreased for 11.7 percent, the energy—39 percent, metal-cutting lathes—for 64.8 percent.

Reshuffle in Armed Forces, Defense Ministry Reported

MK0505125094 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 May 94 p 1

[Report by Vitaliy Denisov from Tbilisi under the "News" rubric: "New Minister Starts With Reshuffles"]

[Text] Lieutenant General Vardiko Nadibaidze, Georgian defense minister, has issued orders on new appointments to senior posts at the Republic's Defense Ministry.

Major General Paata Datuashvili, first deputy minister, has been removed from office. He will be replaced by Maj. Gen. Guram Nikolaishvili, who has until the present day been chief of the General Staff. The General Staff, in turn, will be headed by Maj. Gen. Nodar Tatarashvili, who has until recently been in command of the Georgian peacekeeping forces in South Ossetia.

Estonia

Talks With Russia Reportedly 'Deadlocked'

LD0605151794 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1400 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] No particular results were achieved during the round of Estonian-Russian talks which ended today at Lohusalu. For this reason the parties have acknowledged that the talks between the two countries are deadlocked, as before. The Estonian and Russian delegations failed to agree on the agreements on both the troop withdrawal and social guarantees to military pensioners. During a news conference which followed the talks, both the Estonian and Russian delegation leaders accused each other of reluctance to approach the issues in question in a constructive manner.

During this talks round the Estonian and Russian delegations initialled only an agreement on educational cooperation and signed a border representatives' agreement.

Ambassador Vasiliy Svirin, the Russian delegation leader, told the journalists that there is no clause within the Estonian-Russian agreement on military pensioners which differs from a similar agreement initialled between Latvia and Russia. And for this reason Russia had been expecting success here. Unfortunately no agreement was reached due to the Estonian side's truculence.

Russia continues to demand that together with the general troop withdrawal agreement an agreement on military pensioners is also signed. Russia also demands that all military pensioners should have the right to obtain permanent residence permits in Estonia, and that the years they had served in the Soviet army should be included on their privatization registration cards. The Estonian side has not agreed to these demands because even for Estonian citizens the time served in the Soviet Army is not included.

Ambassador Vaino Reinart, the Estonian delegation's leader, stated that the situation in Estonia differs from that of Latvia, and one must operate within the laws which are in force here. According to Reinart, the Russian representatives have so far not agreed to discuss the particulars of the removal of Paldiski nuclear reactors by linking this to other issues. Svirin, too, stated to the journalists that Russia wants to sign a full agreement on the abolition of the military base of Paldiski, and the Estonian side is unfortunately dragging its feet on this. Reinart said that he did not fully understand which agreement Svirin was talking about. Russia has pledged to remove the nuclear fuel by the end of June and nobody knows why there is a delay.

The Estonian and Russian delegations did not agree a date for the 20th round of talks. Within the next two weeks the delegations' working groups will be meeting. They will recommend to the delegations ways for bringing the talks out of deadlock.

No Breakthrough Achieved

LD0605091894 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 6 May 94

[Text] The 19th round of Estonian-Russian talks will end today at Lohusalu. As reported to Estonian Radio by the Foreign Ministry, no breakthrough was achieved at yesterday's meeting. The Russian side did not alter its positions on the issue of military pensioners. Russia demands that social protection for Russian military pensioners should be viewed within a single package containing the troop withdrawal agreement. Estonia continues to stand firmly on its posiiton: the Russian troop withdrawal cannot be linked to any additional conditions. According to Vaino Reinart, the Estonian delegation's leader, the delegations expect to initial an agreement on cooperation in education today. This will lay down the principles for student exchanges, cooperation between higher education establishments, and other matters.

Russia Destroys Remaining Explosives on Naissaar Island

WS0505120494 Tallinn BNS in English 0900 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 04, BNS—Crews at the Russian naval base on the island of Naissaar, bordering the Gulf of Tallinn, by May 1 had destroyed all mines they had on the island, the Estonian Foreign Ministry press office reported quoting officers at the Russian naval headquarters in Tallinn.

A big number of mines and explosives still remains on another Estonian island, Suur-Pakri, or Great Pakri, situated off the former Russian base town of Paldiski. While its neighboring small island of Vaike-Pakri looks relatively nice, Suur-Pakri looks like some kind of a "sea hedgehog," the government's special representative Juri Tikk has said.

The Pakri islands were used as training fields by the Russian military. Tikk said the ammunition left on Suur-Pakri ranges from non-exploding training mines and bombs to shells filled 20-percent with ammunition.

Crews of the Estonian Rescue Department are expected to start cleaning Suur-Pakri of this legacy within few weeks. Rescue Department experts say it is very difficult to determine the exact types of the shells, because many of them are covered with heavy rust.

Latvia

U.S. Envoy Presents Ulmanis With Clinton Letter

WS0505115394 Riga LETA in English 0700 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Riga, 5 May (LETA)—On Wednesday [4 May], Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis received the American ambassador to Latvia, Ints Silins, who handed over the letters from U.S. President Bill Clinton to Mr. Ulmanis. According to the President's Chancellery, one of the letters contains a positive evaluation of the actions of the Latvian

president in normalization of the Latvian-Russian relations. According to Bill Clinton, these actions will promote security of Europe.

Law on State Security Institutions Adopted

LD0505192694 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Today the Saeima adopted on its third reading a law on the state security institutions and a law on the Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution [Satversmes Aizsardzibas Birojs]. The law on the state security institutions, as an umbrella law, determines the concept and content of national security, the legal basis, purposes and tasks of the work of the state security institutions.

According to this law, the state security institutions as a whole will create the Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution, the Military Counter-Intelligence Service of the Ministry of Defense, the Security Police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Information Service of the Home Guard Headquarters. The main tasks of the organs of state security are the collection of political, economic, military, and other information connected with state security and ecological threats, and its use in a manner prescribed in the law, as well as the protection of state secrets and other vitally important information to the state's interests. The fulfillment of the main tasks of the state security organs will be monitored by the National Security Council [Nacionalas Drosibas Padome].

The Cabinet of Ministers will monitor the state security institutions subject to it. Parliamentary control of the state security institutions will be exercised by the Saeima Commission on National Security. The Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution is a nonmilitary institution of state security, which is to conduct, in a manner prescribed in the law, as well as organize and coordinate, the intelligence and counter-intelligence activity of the state security institutions, receiving, collating and using information relating to the country's security, defense and economic security. Supervision of its activity, in correspondence with the laws, will be the work of the Procurator-General of the Republic of Latvia or procurators especially delegated by him. The Bureau for the Protection of the Constitution is also subject to the control of the courts.

Ulmanis Comments on Baltic Leader Talks

LD0505191094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1629 GMT 5 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis categorically rejected information spread by mass media and stating that Estonian President Lennart Meri allegedly declared at the meeting of the presidents of three Baltic states last Tuesday that having signed the package of agreements on troops withdrawal with Russia, Latvia had broken the integrity of the Baltic states. "The summit in Jurmala has not accused Latvia of the collapse of the Baltic states," Ulmanis stressed at a press conference in Riga.

Ulmanis has once again pointed to a confidential nature of the meeting between leaders of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, which lasted for six hours. Without disclosing any details, Ulmanis reported that the meeting primarily discussed problems of Russian troops withdrawal from Estonia and possibility to involve western states as mediators to settle contradictions between Tallinn and Moscow on conditions of forces withdrawal. In Ulmanis' words, leaders of the Baltic states have also discussed problems related to concentration of forces in Russia's Kaliningrad region.

The 19th round of the Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations on the time of forces withdrawal from Estonia was started on Thursday in the village of Lohusalu near Tallinn.

IF Note: As it is known, late last year the Russian party proposed to conclude withdrawal of the remaining forces, approximately 2500 in number, by 31 August under provision that social guarantees, including residence permits, are granted to Russian retirees living in Estonia. The Estonian party views this demand as an additional one, which oversteps the agreement and does not correspond to the decree on aliens adopted in the Republic. The delegations failed to overcome these contradictions at the previous round of talks in Moscow.

The day before Estonian President Lennart Meri received head of the Russian delegation Vasiliy Svirin and Russian Ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov. The press service of the Estonian president reported to INTERFAX that Svirin expressed hope for a mutually acceptable solution of the existing problems and stressed the tactfulness of mutual relations between the Russian and Estonian delegations and their strive to normalize relations between two states.

Speaking about the signed package of the Russian-Latvian agreements, Svirin pointed out that in contrast to the estimates of the Baltic mass media, they do not contain any concessions on the part of Latvia and they represent a compromise from both sides.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday [4 May] Latvian Premier Valdis Birkavs signed an Act testifying to the fact that Latvia takes the new building (its construction is not finished yet) of the Russian radar station in the village of Skrunda (160 kilometers to the south-west from Riga) under its jurisdiction.

IF Note: In accordance with the Russian-Latvian agreements signed by Presidents Guntis Ulmanis and Boris Yeltsin on previous Saturday in Moscow (in the framework of the package of agreements on Russian forces withdrawal from Latvia), the radar station in Skrunda will function during the next four years. Its complete dismantlement should be concluded during 1.5 years after the above mentioned term. Latvian government has received guarantees stipulating that the US government would allocate $2 million and the Swedish Government—$1

million for this project. The early warning radar in Skrunda was built in 1967. Construction of its new building was started late eighties.

After the signing Birkavs reported to journalists that the dismantlement of the new building of the station should be started immediately. In his words, the government intends to announce a tender on participation in the dismantlement of this site among different firms.

Lithuania

President Criticizes Work of Prosecutors' Offices, Courts

WS0505115894 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1309 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas expressed his great concern with the fact that prosecutors' offices very often delay preliminary investigations into criminal cases, while courts are overly slow in examining the latter. The president stated in his interview with Lithuanian radio that the operativeness of their work is beneath criticism.

Many prosecutors' offices and courts do not observe legal norms under which preliminary investigations must be completed within two months and cases investigated within 25 days. Everything is delayed for months and even years. This causes the justified indignation of society and government institutions. Algirdas Brazauskas said that he was also upset by this.

During the entire period of investigation, the accused are kept in overcrowded cells with unsanitary conditions. People are simply neglected there. The president stressed that it would be very difficult to administer justice in this way.

"I am not speaking about the investigation of cases, which is an exceptional prerogative of the court, and no one has the right to interfere with its work. However, the observance of deadlines and the quality of preliminary investigations is the common concern of us all," said Algirdas Brazauskas.

The president particularly focused on those cases, which are being investigated by the Prosecutor General's Office and the Supreme Court. The criminal case in which Makutinovich and Sklyar, members of the Vilnius OMON [special Soviet militia units], are accused of crimes against the state, has been sitting in the Supreme Court since September 1993, while they had to be sued within 10 days. It has been already a year and the criminal case of violations in printing the litas has not received any legal assessment. This notorious case, which puts high-ranking government officials on trial, was suspended by the Supreme Court on 1 February. The latter authorized the Prosecutor General's Office to provide new evidence within a month. However, no additional material was obtained. The president said that he would demand an explanation from both institutions.

IMF Gives Lithuania Second Part of Systemic Credit

LD0505122194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1028 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The International Monetary Fund has given Lithuania the second part of a systemic credit worth $36 million on 5-6 percent annual interest to fund the government's economic stabilization program. The first equal share of the credit was provided last October.

The Head of the State Credits Department at Lithuania's Finance Ministry, Ruta Skyriene, has reported to INTERFAX that the money was given for 10 years with a five-year moratorium. The 5 percent annual credit rate will be corrected quarterly, however, it will remain under six percent. The loan will be returned only in hard currency, she stressed.

In her words, although Lithuania's State Bank has been negotiating with republican commercial banks on how the second part of the credit should best be used, they have not come up with anything of substance.

An IMF envoy to Lithuania Peter Cornelius has told INTERFAX that the second part of the credit may go "to put the Lithuanian commercial banks balance of payment in order."